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No. 2(113)/21-Chair(NCHR)  
GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN  
NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor Evacuee Trust Complex, F-5/1,  
Agha Khan Road, Islamabad.



Islamabad, the 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 2022

**Subject: No Objection Certificate (NOC) and Provision of Security for Aurat Azadi Jalsa 2022, Islamabad**

The National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) is a statutory body set up under the NCHR Act XVI of 2012, in accordance with the Paris Principles.

The NCHR Act, 2012 stipulates a broad and overarching mandate for the promotion and protection of human rights, as provided for in Pakistan's Constitution, domestic law and international treaties. Amidst others, the primary functions of the NCHR include investigating allegations of human rights abuses and advising the Government on legislative, policy and administrative matters pertaining to the situation of human rights in the country.

Attached here with is a letter received from the Aurat Azadi March Islamabad stating their concerns regarding the non-issuance of NOC and lack of security provision for the Aurat Azadi Jalsa 2022 that is scheduled to take place at the Amphitheater, Fatima Jinnah Park (F9 Park) on Sunday, March 6th 2022.

Pakistan's Constitution guarantees the fundamental rights of freedom of speech and expression, freedom of movement, peaceful assembly and freedom of association under Articles 19, 15, 16 and 17 respectively. These fundamental rights are also enshrined in Articles 15, 19 and 20 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. To commemorate International Women's Day, citizens of Pakistan from all walks of life, and all classes, demonstrate peacefully every year across Pakistan.

There are numerous landmark judgments of the Supreme Court of Pakistan that unequivocally uphold the rights to peaceful protest and freedom of speech and expression in Pakistan. Denying women the right to advocate for social and political issues like economic justice, legal implementation and fair housing would be an infringement of their constitutional rights.

The Islamabad High Court (IHC) ruled, in Ammar Rashid, etc. vs the State, that the constitutional right to peaceful assembly cannot be abolished by any court of law. Further, in 2020 the IHC dismissed a petition seeking to restrict the Aurat March and reiterated that the right of assembly is a fundamental right under the Constitution.

In view of the above ICT District Administration is kindly requested to look into the concerns of the organizers. issue a No Objection Certificate and ensure provision of security to the participants as per the law.

Thanking You.

Yours Sincerely,

(Rabiya Javeri Agha)

The Deputy Commissioner  
Islamabad Capital Territory  
Pakistan