

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS AND INTER-FAITH-HARMONY ON THE CHILD MARRIAGE RESTRAINT (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2016.

I, Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Religious Affairs & Inter-faith Harmony, have the honor to present this Report on the Bill further to amend the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929 (Act No. XIX of 1929) [The Child Marriage Restraint (Amendment) Bill, 2016] (Private Member's Bill) referred to the Committee on 24th March, 2016.

2. The Committee comprises of the following: -

1.	Ms. Shagufta Jumani	Chairperson
2.	Hafiz Abdul Kareem (Federal Minister for Communication)	Member
3.	Mr. Waheed Alam Khan	Member
4.	Begum Majeeda Wyne	Member
5.	Malik Abdul Ghaffar Dogar	Member
6.	Syed Imran Ahmad Shah	Member
7.	Shaibzada Faiz-ul-Hassan	Member
8.	Mr. Bhawan Das	Member
9.	Ms. Kiran Imran Dar	Member
10.	Mr. Tariq Christopher Qaiser	Member
11.	Syed Amir Ali Shah Jamote	Member
12.	Mr. Ramesh Lal	Member
13.	Mr. Ali Muhammad Khan	Member
14.	Mr. Lal Chand Malhi	Member
15.	Mr. Muhammad Kamal Malik	Member
16.	Molvi Agha Muhammad	Member
17.	Ms. Shahida Akhtar Ali	Member
18.	Mr. Pir Bux Junejo	Member
19.	Sahibzada Muhammad Yaqub	Member
20.	Mr. Bismillah Khan	Member
21.	Sardar Muhammad Yousaf Minister for Religious Affairs and Inter-faith Harmony	Ex-officio Member

3. The Committee considered the Bill in its meeting, held on 4th May, 2017. The Committee recommends that the Bill at Annex-A may not be passed by the National Assembly.

Sd/-
(JAWAD RAFIQUE MALIK)

Secretary

Islamabad, the 6th November, 2017

Sd/-
(MS. SHAGUFTA JUMANI)

Chairperson

Standing Committee on Religious Affairs and Inter-faith-Harmony

[AS REPORTED BY THE STANDING COMMITTEE]

A
BILL

further to amend the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929 (Act No. XIX of 1929)

WHEREAS it is expedient further to amend the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929, to make appropriate amendments to strictly punish child marriages;

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

1. **Short title and commencement.**- (1) This Act may be called the Child Marriage Restraint (Amendment) Act, 2016.
(2) It shall come into force at once.
2. **Amendment of section 5 Act XIX of 1929.**- In the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929 (No. XIX of 1929) in section 5,-
 - (a) for the words, "one month" the words, "three years", shall be substituted; and
 - (b) for the word, "one", occurring for the second time, the words, "three hundred", shall be substituted.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Child marriage is not less than a curse biologically and socially but in rural areas of the country this curse is going on non-stop as particularly the parents of minor girls contract their marriages without their consent with person far older in their ages and then they have to suffer throughout their lives. Thus, it is expedient that such social curse should be dealt with iron hand which is not possible except by enhancement of punishment of the offence to ensure effective deterrent for commission of the offence. It will also particularly protect Fundamental Rights of female child and minor girls.

2. The Bill seeks to achieve the above-said objectives.

Ms. Kishwer Zehra
Member-in-charge