

BILL

further to amend the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

WHEREAS, it is expedient further to amend the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for the purposes hereinafter appearing;

It is hereby enacted as follows:

1. **Short title and commencement.**— (1) This Act may be called the Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2019.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. **Amendment of Article 25 of the Constitution.**— In the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, for Article 25, the following shall be substituted, namely:—

“25. Equality of citizens.— (1) All persons are equal before law and are entitled to equal protection of law.

(2) Equality is full and equal enjoyment of all rights and freedoms.

(3) The state shall not discriminate directly or indirectly against anyone on grounds of race, gender, sex, pregnancy, marital status, ethnic or social origin, colour, age, disability, religion or language.

(4) The state shall promote the achievement of equality, by taking measures designed to promote those disadvantaged by discrimination and undertake legislation to enforce and ensure equality for all citizens.”.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Equality is the central principle of fundamental rights in modern constitutions. In Pakistan equality before the law is guaranteed in Article 25. In sub-clause 2 it is further qualified that there shall be no discrimination on the basis of sex.

2. However, discrimination and marginalization of different sections of society continues on the basis of many other characteristics and as such it is imperative to explicitly articulate and express that the state rejects these forms and types of discrimination.

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

Sd/-

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Members, National Assembly.