

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS AND INTER-FAITH HARMONY ON "THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR RIGHTS OF NON-MUSLIMS BILL, 2021"

I, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Religious Affairs and Inter-Faith Harmony have the honour to present this report on the Bill to provide for constitution of the National Commission for Rights of Non-Muslims [The National Commission for Rights of Non-Muslims Act, 2021] (Private Member's Bill), referred to the Standing Committee on 13th July 2021.

2. The Committee comprises the following:

1.	Syed Imran Ahmad Shah	Chairman
2.	Choudhary Faqir Ahmed	Member
3.	Mr. Ehsan-ul-Haq Bajwa	Member
4.	Begum Tahira Bokhari	Member
5.	Ms. Shahnaz Saleem Malik	Member
6.	Mr. Kesoo Mal Kheeral Das	Member
7.	Mr. Naveed Amir Jeeva	Member
8.	Pir Syed Fazal Ali Shah Jillani	Member
9.	Ms. Shagufta Jumani	Member
10.	Mr. Muhammad Anwar	Member
11.	Ms. Shahida Akhtar Ali	Member
12.	Ms. Saira Bano	Member
13.	Mr. Saleem Rehman	Member
14.	Sahibzada Sibghatullah	Member
15.	Mr. Muhammad Bashir Khan	Member
16.	Prince Muhammad Nawaz Allai	Member
17.	Mr. Mujahid Ali	Member
18.	Raja Riaz Ahmad	Member
19.	Ch. Javed Iqbal Warraich	Member
20.	Mr. Jamshed Thomas	Member
21.	Mufti Abdul Shakoor	Ex-officio Member
	Minister for Religious Affairs and Inter-Faith Harmony	

3. The Committee considered the Bill as introduced in the National Assembly placed at (Annex-A), in its meeting held on 4th February 2022 and recommended that the Bill, as introduced, may not be passed by the Assembly.

Sd/-
(TAHIR HUSSAIN)
 Secretary
 Islamabad, the 27th July 2022

Sd/-
(SYED IMRAN AHMAD SHAH)
 Chairman

[AS INTRODUCED IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY]

BILL

to provide for constitution of the National Commission for Rights of Non-Muslims

WHEREAS it is expedient to establish Commission for protection of and provide rights of Non-Muslims and provide for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto;

1. **Short Title and Commencement.** - (1) This Act may be called "the National Commission for Rights of Non-Muslims Act, 2021".

(2) It extends to the whole of Pakistan.

(3) It shall come into force at once.

2. **Definitions.** - In this Act, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context,-

(a) "Commission" means National Commission for Rights of Non-Muslims constituted under section 3 of this act;

(b) "Chairperson" means a person as appointed under section I of this act, and includes acting chairperson appointed under section 8 of this act;

(c) "Member" means a person selected by the Federal Government under section 5 of this act;

(d) "Secretary" means a person appointed under section 10 of this act;

(e) "Minority" refers to any religious community as defined in Article 260(3)(b) of the Constitution of Pakistan;

(f) "Government" means the Federal Government.

The National Commission for Minority Rights

3. **Establishment of the Commission.** - (1) The Government shall constitute a National Commission for Rights of Non-Muslims, to exercise the powers conferred upon, and functions assigned in this Act.

(2) The Commission shall consist of-

(a) Chairperson, who shall be a member of a minority community having demonstrable knowledge with experience of working on issues related minorities for not less than ten years;

(b) A Vice Chairman who shall be a member of a minority community having demonstrable knowledge with experience of working on issues related minorities shall be the members of the Commission;

(c) Ten renowned persons from the minority who contributed for the cause of minorities shall be the members of the Commission;

(d) Two members each from the Punjab, Sindh Provinces, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa one each from Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Gilgit-Baltistan, and Islamabad Capital Territory shall possess experience not less than five years of working on issues related to religious minorities;

(e) In addition to the Chairperson and members, there shall be a Secretary who shall not have the rights to vote;

(f) *Ex-officio* members representing all the Ministries related with the subject of

- religious minorities, not below BPS-20, and who shall not have the right to vote;
- (g) Chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission;
 - (h) Chairperson of the National Commission on the Status of Women.
- (3) A member appointed under paragraph (c) of sub-section (2) shall be not less than thirty years of age, with a minimum working experience of five years on issues related to minority.
- (4) Headquarter of the Commission shall be in Islamabad.
- (5) The Commission shall be a body having perpetual succession and a common seal with power, among other, to acquire, hold and dispose of any property and shall sue and is used by the said name.

4. Appointment of Chairperson. - (1) The Government through a public notice shall invite suggestions for suitable persons for the appointment of the Chairperson and, after proper scrutiny, shall submit a list of those persons to the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly.

(2) The Prime Minister in consultation with the Leader of the Opposition shall forward three names for the Chairperson to the Parliamentary Committee of the National Assembly for hearing and confirmation of any person from the proposed names:

Provided that in case there is no consensus between the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition, each shall forward separate list of three people each to the Parliamentary Committee.

(3) The Parliamentary Committee shall be constituted by the Speaker of the National Assembly and shall comprise 50 (fifty) percent members from the treasury benches and 50 (fifty) percent from the opposition parties, based on their strength in the Majlis-e-Shoora (Parliament), to be nominated by the respective Parliamentary Leaders:

Provided that the total strength of the Parliamentary Committee shall not exceed twelve members out of which one-third shall be from the Senate.

Provided further that half of these nominated persons shall belong to minority communities.

(4) The Parliamentary Committee shall regulate its own procedure for nominating the Chairman.

(5) The Parliamentary Committee shall forward the name of the nominee confirmed to the Prime Minister, who shall appoint the Chairperson accordingly.

(6) The Chairperson shall be thirty-five years or above.

5. Appointment of Members. - (1) The *ex-officio* members shall be appointed by the Prime Minister.

(2) The other members shall be selected from amongst the names recommended under section 4 and with consultation of the Chairperson.

(3) Two members from the Punjab, two members from Sindh, two member from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, one member from Balochistan, one from ICT, one from Azad Jammu and Kashmir and one from Gilgit-Baltistan shall be chosen.

(4) Half of the members of the commission shall be women.

(5) Two of the members shall be from the Christian community, one from the caste Hindu community, one from the Dalit community, one from the Sikh community, one from the Parsi or any other minority and four from the Muslim majority, meeting the selection criteria.