

[AS PASSED BY NATIONAL ASSEMBLY]

A

BILL

further to amend the Pakistan Penal Code (Act XLV of 1860) and the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898 (Act V of 1898)

WHEREAS it is expedient further to amend the Pakistan Penal Code (Act XLV of 1860) and the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898 (Act V of 1898) in the manner and for the purposes hereinafter appearing;

It is hereby enacted as follows: -

1. **Short title and commencement.** (1) This Act shall be called the Criminal Laws (Amendment) Act, 2025.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. **Amendment of section 354A, Act XLV of 1860.** In the Pakistan Penal Code (Act XLV of 1860), hereinafter referred to as the said Code, in section 354-A, the words "with death or" shall be omitted.

3. **Amendment of section 402C, Act XLV of 1860.** In the said Code, in section 402-C, the words "death or" shall be omitted.

4. **Amendment of Schedule II, Act V of 1898.** In the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898 (Act V of 1898), in Schedule II, in column 1,-

(a) against section 354A, for the corresponding entry in column 7, the words "Death or" shall be omitted;

(b) after section 402 and corresponding entries relating thereto in columns 2 to 8, the following new section and corresponding entries relating thereto in columns 2 to 8 shall be inserted, namely: -

354-A	Assault or criminal force to women and stripping her of her clothes	May arrest without warrant	Warrant	Not bailable	Not compoundable	Imprisonment for life and forfeiture of property and fine	Court of Sessions
-------	---------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------	---------	--------------	------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------	-------------------

402-C	Punishment for harbouring hijacker, etc.	May arrest without warrant	Warrant	Not bailable	Not compoundable	Imprisonment for life and fine	Court of Session
-------	------------------------------------------	----------------------------	---------	--------------	------------------	--------------------------------	------------------

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

(Under Article 6(2) of ICCPR, the death penalty can only be imposed for the "most serious crimes". The section reads as follows:

"In countries which have not abolished the death penalty, sentence of death may be imposed only for the most serious crimes in accordance with the law in force at the time of the commission of the crime and not contrary to the provisions of the present Covenant and to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. This penalty can only be carried out pursuant to a final judgment rendered by a competent court."

2. In an effort to comply with the requirements of GSP+ and Pakistan's International commitments under ICCPR, three meetings with all stakeholders were held on 7.9.2021, 8.9.2021 and 10.9.2021 to review reduction of the death penalty in order to bring it in line with international law and Islamic jurisprudence. Ministry of Interior and Narcotics Control proposes draft Criminal Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2025 proposing omission of death penalty from Pakistan Penal Code, 1860 with an alternative punishment of life imprisonment in sections 354 A, and 402 C.

3. This Bill aims to achieve the aforesaid objectives.



(Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi)
Minister for Interior and Narcotics Control

