



## Forced Conversions

APPG Report –The Abductions, Forced Conversions and Forced Marriages of Young Minority Girls Inquiry report is planned to be launched imminently.

The report summarises a sample of the evidence and information gathered regarding the victims of the issues of abductions, forced conversions and forced marriages of religious minority women and girls in Pakistan. In addition, this report has a number of key objectives. Firstly, this report explains the current legal position regarding the rights of women and girls in Pakistan, with particular reference to Pakistan's international legal obligations. Secondly, it explains the nature of the issues of abductions, forced conversions and forced marriages. Thirdly, it explores the consequences of being subjected to these acts. Fourthly, it examines the challenges faced by religious minority communities in the pursuit of justice and lastly, it identifies the required responses to these challenges and suggests recommendations.

It is planned to send copies of the report to the Pakistan and the British Governments, UN Special Rapporteurs, US Commission on International Religious Freedom, EU Special Envoy on Freedom and Belief, and the international human rights

NEWS LETTER

October 2021



All-Party Parliamentary Group for  
the Pakistani Minorities

## Single National Curriculum (SNC)

The APPG has raised awareness about the minorities' concerns in various Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB) meetings, including the UK FoRB Forum. A Briefing Paper has been sent to the Prime Minister's Special Representative on FoRB. It highlighted the dangers identified by the minorities academic experts, in the SNC introduced in the Punjab primary schools this year. The following issues were included:

- Increase in Islamic contents in the compulsory subjects like Urdu and English, is a contradiction of the Article 22 of the Constitution of Pakistan.
- Induction of compulsory subject 'Nazra Quran' by the Punjab Government, will benefit Muslim pupils securing another 50 numbers, whereas, pupils from religious minorities have no such opportunity.
- Four periods allocated to the Nazra Quran studies, and no provisions for the non-Muslim students, will imply that they will involuntarily be part of those lessons.

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*The APPG has sent a Briefing Paper to the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, expressing its reservations about the proposed amendment to Section 6 of the **Protection to Communal Properties Ordinance 2002**, by the Federal Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony*

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## Parliamentary Question – Maira Shahbaz

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what progress her Department has made on the case of Maira Shahbaz.

Full answer here:

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-22/38237>

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