

PAKISTAN - UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW

On 1 February, the UPR Working Group of the Human Rights Council adopted a draft UPR outcome report for Pakistan. Pakistan received a total 340 recommendations, a substantial increase from its previous UPR in 2017, when Pakistan received 289 recommendations. As among the key recommendations adopted, the following urged Pakistan to:

- *Repeal or amend “blasphemy laws” to bring them in line with international human rights law;*
- *Ensure effective protection of the rights of religious minorities, human rights defenders, journalists, and other vulnerable groups;*
- *Set 18 as the minimum legal age for marriage;*
- *Combat gender-based violence and end forced conversions; and*
- *End discrimination against marginalised communities,*

Pakistan will now examine the recommendations and formally respond to them at the Human Rights Council’s June 2023 session.

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PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY REPORT LAUNCHED- ‘THE SITUATION OF HAZARA IN PAKISTAN’

The Report of the Parliamentary Inquiry, into marginalisation, discrimination and social exclusion of the Hazara’s community in Afghanistan and Pakistan was published recently. It identifies steps that can be taken to prevent further atrocities against the community. This report focuses on Pakistan exclusively. The situation in Afghanistan is covered in a separate report.



HOW DEATH AND DESPAIR HAUNT PAKISTAN’S CHRISTIAN MINORITY.

They face preventable workplace deaths and accidents as they are forced into the hazardous work of cleaning the country’s streets and gutters. Their unfortunate plight can be heard/read in this documentary on Aljazeera.

[How death and despair haunt Pakistan’s Christian minority](#)

Podcasts: [Al Jazeera Longreads](#) | [Podcasts](#) | [Al Jazeera](#)