



SINGLE NATIONAL CURRICULUM PAKISTAN

Early Day Motion 252 - tabled by *Jim Shannon* - APPG Chair

That this House is concerned with the proposed contents of the Single National Curriculum in Pakistan; notes the increase in content of Islamic education in subjects like Urdu and English in the primary school books; further notes that students from various minorities will be forced to learn about Islam involuntarily, against the provisions of Article 22 of Pakistan's Constitution; and is apprehensive that in order to meet the demand for primary school children to recite the religious knowledge by heart, increasing numbers of graduates of Madrasas will be employed in schools, thus affecting the ambience of each school

Parliamentary Questions

Tommy Sheppard MP Shadow SNP spokesperson, UIN 38298, 38299, 38300.

To ask the Secretary of State for FCDO:

What representations his Department has made to Pakistan's provincial governments on the return of **nationalised Christian and Ahmadi colleges** and schools?

What recent support the Government has provided to Pakistan to encourage **teacher training on respect for minorities**?

What recent assessment his Department has made of whether **non-Muslim pupils** at educational institutions in Pakistan **are required to receive Islamic religious education**?

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-22/38298>,
<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-22/38299>
<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-22/38300>

NEWS LETTER

SEPTEMBER 2021



All-Party Parliamentary Group for the Pakistani Minorities

Professor Javaid Rehman, Senior legal

Advisor of the APPG for Pakistani Minorities, was a witness at the Parliamentary International Development Committee Inquiry into UK aid to Pakistan, HC 102.



His statement included the following:

- There has been a systematic and systemic erosion of the rights of minorities and the right to freedom of religion or belief.
- There is a deliberate effort to ensure that the national human rights institutions remain dysfunctional. The National Commission for Human Rights, which is a parliamentary-created commission, has been deliberately made dysfunctional since 2019. The National Commission on the status of Women remains in a state of paralysis without the appointment of a chairperson. Importantly in this regard, the Federal Government set up what they called a National Commission for Minorities, but that was through an executive order. It is neither independent financially nor administratively. It is totally contrary to what we know as the Paris Principles.
- The young girls from minority faiths—Christians and Hindus primarily are forcibly converted, abducted, and then married. The case of Maria Shahbaz, aged 15, the Lahore high court ruled the case in favour of the abductor, is an example. Now, this poor girl is fearful for her life, charges being brought against her with accusations of apostasy, which carries serious punishment, possibly including the death penalty for her.
- There is a substantial amount of Islamic religious content in compulsory non-Islamic subjects. Pupils have to read Islam, involuntarily; even if they are studying English, Urdu or other subjects.
- As of late 2020, there were 40 people on death row under section 295-C of the blasphemy laws. You can imagine the extreme gravity of laws.
- The members of religious minorities are increasingly being victimised, including targeted killings within the premises of courts.
- The right to worship is being restricted with restrictions on building places of worship and lack of action when places of worship have been destroyed by non-state actors.
- The minorities are nowhere to be seen in terms of right the recognition of their rights.

You may contact us for your suggestions or comments.

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