



Early Day Motion 106 - by *Jim Shannon MP*
Blasphemy laws in Pakistan

That this House notes with concern the Pakistani Government's recent public commitment to maintaining the country's blasphemy laws; expresses disappointment at the Pakistani Government's dismissal of evidence of the misuse of these laws against religious minorities; notes that false accusations of blasphemy are made with impunity and that Pakistan's own Supreme Court has observed the majority of blasphemy cases are based on false accusations stemming from personal or family vendettas; acknowledges that Pakistan's religious and belief minorities are disproportionately affected, with Pakistan's Christians making up just 1.6 percent of the country's population but representing more than 15 percent of those charged with blasphemy; is concerned by Amnesty International's reports of an alarming uptick in blasphemy accusations across Pakistan; denounces the vigilante violence that blasphemy accusations often incite; calls on the Governments of Pakistan, and the seven other countries in which blasphemy convictions carry death sentences, to stop the misuse of these laws; urge the Pakistani Government to release those languishing in prison held on unsubstantiated charges, including Christians Shagufta Kausar and Shafqat Emmanuel held since 2014 for allegedly sending blasphemous text messages; and further calls on the UK Government to follow the European Parliament's lead in re-examining trade relations with Pakistan due to that country's human rights record.

Signatures by:

Barker Paula: Labour MP for Liverpool, Wavertree
Hannah Claire: Social Democratic and Labour party for Belfast, South
Thewliss Alison: Scottish National Party MP for Glasgow North West.

NEWS LETTER

June 2021



All-Party Parliamentary Group for the Pakistani Minorities

Parliamentary Questions

Asked by Dr Rupa Huq (Labour)– UIN6393

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what recent discussions he has had with his Pakistani counterpart on the reported mistreatment of Christian Pakistanis in Pakistan.

Asked by Alex Sobul (Labour)– UIN7266

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what discussions he has had with his Pakistani counterpart on (a) the alleged abductions of children such as Maira Shahbaz and Farah Shaheen, (b) forced marriage and (c) forced conversion to Islam in that Country.

Debate: Impact of Covid-19 on Religious and Ethnic Minorities – Tues Jun 22nd – 9.25am-11am – Westminster Hall

The covid-19 pandemic has exacerbated inequalities around the world and caused many marginalised communities to face even greater persecution. Jim Shannon has secured a debate which will explore the impact that covid-19 has had on these groups and what can be done to support them. The APPG for Pakistani Minorities will be sending a submission.

THE APPG FOR PAKISTANI MINORITIES HELD ITS AGM ON 25 MAY 2021. **THE FOLLOWING OFFICERS WERE ELECTED** AND THE RESULTS PASSED ON TO THE OFFICE OF THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMISSIONER FOR STANDARDS, FOR ENTRY IN THE REGISTER OF THE ALL-PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUPS.

Chair	Jim Shannon
Co-Chair	Lord David Alton
Vice Chair	Steve Reed
Vice Chair	Lord Singh of Wimbledon
Secretary	Martyn Day
Treasurer	Fiona Bruce

The Vatican news agency "agenzia fides" highlights Pakistan's Supreme Court decision about Edwards College, Peshawar. This case is getting International media coverage.

http://www.fides.org/en/news/70273-ASIA_PAKISTAN_An_old_Christian_school_seized_from_the_Church_minority_rights_trampled_on Report by Free Lance Christian Journalist Kashif Nawab.

Contact us or leave your comments at:
appgpakistanminorities@gmail.com
 Facebook/appgpakistanminorities



Lord (David) Alton @DavidAltonHL · 9 Jun
 Pakistan's Edwardes College, in the city of Peshawar, a historic Anglican institute, has been sequestered by the State. Another blow to diversity, minorities, and religious freedom. [fides.org/en/news/70273-...](https://www.fides.org/en/news/70273-...)



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