



Launch of the All-Party Parliamentary Group inquiry report – Forced Conversions and Forced Marriages of Religious Minority Women and Girls in Pakistan

The All-Party Parliamentary Group Inquiry Report – *Forced Conversions and Forced Marriages of Religious Minority Women and Girls in Pakistan* - was launched on 25 November. Mr. Jim Shannon MP, Chairman of the APPG, speaking in a recorded message emphasized the terrible sufferings of these victims and stated:

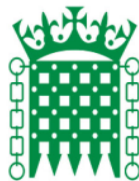
“We also remember that education for girls is the UK’s international priority. Yet abductions, forced conversions and forced marriages issue represents a grave violation of the human rights of minority girls, it reduces any chance they might have of studying and breaking out of the vicious cycle of illiteracy, poverty, and early marriages. Addressing this issue is a crucial step, to keep these girls in school and so ensure a better future for them.”

He added: *“We remember that today is the International Day for the Elimination of Violence to Women, yet there could be hardly any worse example of violence to women than to take them away from their families, friends and relatives, rape them and enslave them, for the rest of their lives”.*

The international community needs to take urgent action to eliminate cases of forced conversions and forced marriages of minority girls and women in Pakistan.

NEWS LETTER

December 2021



All-Party Parliamentary Group for
the Pakistani Minorities

Lord Alton, the co-chair of the APPG for Pakistani Minorities, said at the launch. Speaking in a recorded speech in The British Parliament, he said: “I am quite certain that the failure to act has sullied Pakistan’s reputation in many parts of the world. It also brings into disrepute the legacy of the greatly admired lawyer and statesman, Mohammed Ali Jinnah. International opinion is agreed that the severity and nature of the ever-growing practice of abductions, conversions, forced marriages and abuse, requires an urgent response. “

Speaking as the Chief Guest at the event, Lord Ahmad, Minister of State for South Asia and the Commonwealth, at the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, clarified that, “The UK government has regularly raised the need for robust legislation when it comes to the issue – the crime - of forced conversions and forced marriages with both Pakistani Government and Pakistani Parliamentarians, and will continue to do so”.

Assuring the APPG, the UK’s commitment on this subject was absolute: “Forced conversions and forced marriages are serious abuses of human rights. They are appalling, and therefore I assure of this, we stand ready to work with you in our collaborative attempt to end this once and for all”.

The report can be down loaded at:

<https://appgfreedomofreligionorbelief.org/media/APPG-for-the-Pakistani-Minorities-Inquiry-Abductions-Forced-Conversions-and-Forced-Marriages-of-Religious-Minority-Women-and-Girls-in-Pakistan-.pdf>

For any further information please contact: Morris Johns +44 7910 629864 or you may contact us for your suggestions or comments.

[facebook.com/appgpakistanminorities](https://www.facebook.com/appgpakistanminorities)
appgpakistaniminorities@gmail.com