

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Government is taking comprehensive steps to reform criminal justice system for protection of women rights**

Islamabad: Keeping in view the sensitivity and gravity of violence against women, a lot of more work is needed to be done to acquire the maximum benefits from the policies on protection of women rights. It was said in a seminar organized by Parliamentarians Commission for Human Rights in collaboration with Islamabad Police at Marriot Hotel, Islamabad on "Violence against Women and Criminal Justice System: Challenge & Response" Federal Minister for Law, Justice and Human Rights, Mr. Muhammad Wasi Zafar graced the occasion as Chief Guest. In his inaugural address, he said that the Federal Cabinet has already approved Law Reform Bill 2005 which suggests several amendments in Civil and Criminal Procedure Code. He added that proposed amendments in Law Reform Bill 2005 provide punishment for dishonest investigation of case by the police and illegal confinement by police has been made an offence punishable with imprisonment up to seven years subjecting its liability to fine. He said many legislative proposals are on the anvil in which not to summon the women in police station without her relative is also included.

Addressing to seminar, Executive Director PCHR Ms. Kashmala Tariq MNA said that the imprints of violence against women upon the national life nation. She said that the phenomenon of violence against women badly damages human development goals, causes depression, suicides among women, sexual dysfunction and maternal mortality. He mainly focused upon effecting behavioral change towards treatment of women and added that human rights education can be of great helpful. She also highlighted the main contours of the amendments suggested earlier to fine tune Hadood Ordinance and Honor Killings Laws. She maintained that murder in which motive is honor killings should be exempted from compoundability.

In her address to the seminar Judge from Liverpool U.K Ms. Marilyn Morington called violence against women not only the issue of developing countries but of developed as well. Variation depends upon peculiar normative structure of the society. She added that criminal justice system of developed countries is most responsive to gender based violence. She was of the staunch opinion that Islam is true guardian of women rights and she referred many verses from Holy Quran and Sunnah of Prophet Muhammed Peace Be Upon Him.

Director General Police Bureau Dr. Shoaib Saddal, SP Investigation Ehsan Sasiq, Justice (Rtd) Khalil-ur-Rehamn, Ms. Jamila Ahmed MNA and Kanwar Khalid Younas MNA, also addressed to the seminar.

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