

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **PCHR TAKES PLASTIC BAG ISSUE AT NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

ISLAMABAD: The Parliamentarians Commission for Human Rights (PCHR) has raised the issue of use of plastic bags in Pakistan at Parliament stating that plastics bags are made from non- renewable natural resources such as crude oil, gas and coal and they are threatening the quality of life of people in Pakistan.

Chairman PCHR MNA Riaz Fatyana, MNA Ghulam Bibi Bharwana and MNA Saifullah Khan Tawana have submitted a resolution with the Secretariat of National Assembly raising the issue of use of plastic shopping bags and demanding immediate ban over the product which is playing havoc with humans as well as animals. There are approximately 46,000 pieces of plastic floating in each square mile of our oceans. It is estimated that plastic kills up to 1 million sea birds, 100,000 sea mammals and countless fish each year.

Resolution maintains that non-biodegradable plastics bags can last in the environment for up to 1,000 years and landscapes littered with plastic bags are hazardous to wildlife and visually unattractive. What's more, because plastic bags last so long, every year the number of plastic bags littering the environment increase. Plastic bags are lightweight and moisture resistant which means they float easily in air and water, often traveling long distances.

It has been estimated that it costs governments, businesses and community groups over \$4 million per annum to clean up littered plastic shopping bags. There are approximately 46,000 pieces of plastic floating in each square mile of our oceans. It is estimated that plastic kills up to 1 million sea birds, 100,000 sea mammals and countless fish each year.

When oil, gas and coal are used to produce plastic bags, they emit dangerous greenhouse gases. The burning of plastics also creates emissions of toxic gases, dioxins and heavy metals.

Greenhouse gases contribute to worldwide climate change. Scientists Predict that such climate change will impact on all our lives, especially in the areas of agriculture and health.

Following numbers will be reachable round the clock for any information or help:

0300-8555570

Media Cell PCHR