



GENDER & MEDIA WATCH

**January
2023**

Your monthly round-up
of news stories about
women and women's
representation in
Pakistan's news
industry

EDITOR'S NOTE

TRULY, JANUARY WAS AWFUL!

Last December was a glimpse into what Pakistan will be like in 2023. January 2023 was a month where decades of incompetence, appeasement, disregard, opportunism, and arrogance sucked Pakistan into a wormhole that it is struggling to get out of. There is the economy which is now taking its last breaths. People are unable to afford basic necessities of life and the government continues to take steps which are equivalent to shooting itself in the foot. The biggest example is the nationwide power outage on 23rd January 2023 which occurred because the government was allegedly unable to fix the power grid after it turned it off the night before to save fuel. Pakistani internet was atwitter (pun intended) over this event. Which only shows how frustrated the average person is.

The horrific bomb blast in Peshawar on 31 January simply confirmed that terrorists should not be appeased or negotiated with. Given that disasters have a greater impact on women and girls, the media's silence around women's perspectives on these incidents was deafening.

It is clear that Pakistan is veering toward violence and is taking it out on its women. First, four of Pakistan's renowned actresses were viciously dragged online to bring down political opponents. Then at Karachi Eat, women and girls were harassed by those who gatecrashed the event. Later the women were blamed for going out in public. When a group of girls were filmed bullying a girl at an elite private school, there were many comments suggesting that the bullies be sexually assaulted or incarcerated to teach them a lesson. It is 2023, yet Pakistani patriarchy is still using women to either humiliate their opponents, blame them for their own incompetence, or to take their anger and savagery out on them al-

EDITOR'S NOTE

together. Truly one wonders if there is any hope in improving such attitudes.



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But it isn't all gloomy. Some positive stories have turned up in the media. Grammy winner Arooj Aftab will be performing at this year's Grammys. The inclusion of transgenders' in the BISP (Benazir Income Support Programme) is truly momentous, for which Shazia Marri deserves a special thanks. And Justice Ayesha Malik and Senator Sherry Rehman are being lauded for their efforts to improve the country. There IS happiness in Pakistan. But its light is as yet unable to vanquish the darkness that shrouds the nation..



MAJOR STORIES

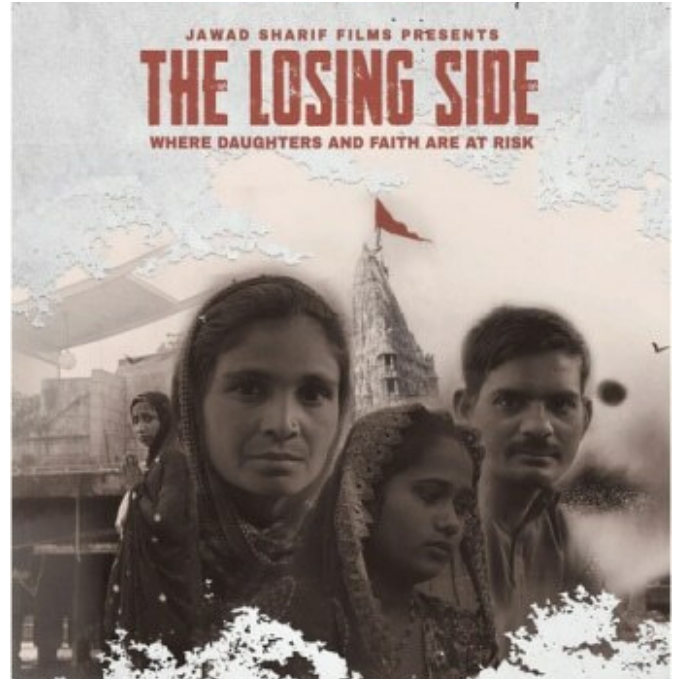
**Click on the heading to read the full story*

PCB BACKS PAKISTAN WOMEN'S LEAGUE AND DISCONTINUES JUNIOR LEAGUE

The Najam Sethi-led Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Management Committee has decided to launch Pakistan Women's League and discontinue Pakistan Junior League. This was decided during the second meeting of the PCB Management Committee chaired by Najam Sethi here at the National High Performance Centre on Saturday. The PCB Management Committee, as part of its strategy to continue to invest in women's cricket, has expressed its enthusiasm and commitment to launch 'The Women's League', which has been renamed as 'Pakistan Women's League'.

Source: *The Nation*

Date: *1st Jan 2023*



FILM ON FORCED CONVERSION BAGS INTERNATIONAL AWARD

A movie documenting the issue of forced religious conversion in Sindh has won an award at the Cannes World Film Festival. 'The Losing Side' bagged the award in the category of 'Best Human Rights Film' for the month of November, the Awards announced in a Facebook post. The film is based on real events with four victims of forced conversions narrating their stories, said movie director Jawad Sharif. In many cases, he added, underage Hindu girls are kidnapped, forcefully converted to Islam and then married off to a Muslim man.

Source: *Dawn*

Date: *2nd Jan 2023*

MAJOR STORIES

**Click on the heading to read the full story*

RS250M GIVEN TO FRONTLINE POLIO WORKERS AFFECTED BY FLOODS

Federal Health Minister Abdul Qadir Patel handed over cheques for polio workers affected by the floods. During a meeting at the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) on Monday, the Health Minister gave cheques to the Coordinators of the Emergency Operations Centres (EOC) in Balochistan, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab. In Sindh, the process has been completed with frontline workers supported with financial assistance in 22 affected districts of the province.

Source: *The News*

Date: *3rd Jan 2023*



AFTER SAJAL AND KUBRA, MEHWISH TAKES A DIG AT ADIL RAJA

Pakistan actor Mehwish Hayat has slammed a social media activist Adil Raja after actors Sajal Ali and Kubra Khan. Earlier, the "Hum Kahan Ke Sachay Thay" actor took a jibe at Raja and said she would take legal action against him for allegedly levelling false allegations against her. In a statement issued on Monday, she said she would take legal action against him if he fails to retract his allegations and does not apologise to her within three days.

Source: *Daily Times*

Date: *4th Jan 2023*

BAJAUR GIRLS MISS OUT ON COLLEGE EDUCATION

There is only one girls' college for a large population of Bajaur tribal district in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P), badly impacting the girls education as the college is centrally located in Khar, the district headquarters, and could not accessed by students from rural hinterlands. Talking to The Express Tribune local residents said that girls' education is not a top priority for the government as there were six boys colleges and just one girls college. An official said that at least 500 girls terminate their studies after passing matric each year in Bajaur due to this.

Source: *Express Tribune*

Date: *5th Jan 2023*



UPTICK SEEN IN CASES OF ABANDONED NEWBORNS

Whether it is due to the economic conditions or for the want of a son instead of a daughter, cases of newborn babies being abandoned at hospitals or dumped in garbage heaps have seen an uptick in Punjab. There are currently 34 newborn children in the nursery of the Child Protection and Welfare Bureau in Lahore - 23 of which are girls, whereas 11 are boys. The Bureau received these infants from various hospitals across Punjab, most of whom were left there by their families.

Source: *Express Tribune*

Date: *6th Jan 2023*

MAJOR STORIES

**Click on the heading to read the full story*



COURT HANDS OVER CUSTODY OF 'KIDNAPPED GIRL' TO PARENTS

After fighting a legal and media battle for over six months, the parents of a teenage girl who was reportedly kidnapped from Karachi before her underage marriage was solemnised in Punjab last year, were finally able to get her 'interim' custody on Friday. A Sindh High Court bench comprising Justice Mohammad Iqbal Kalhoro and Justice Kausar Sultana Hussain passed the order to grant 'interim' custody while disposing of a petition filed by her father. However, the order is subject to a final decision, to be announced by the Guardian and Ward Court/Family Court-XXIX (East) Karachi, where an application for permanent custody of the girl has been pending decision, according to the SHC.

Source: Dawn

Date: 7th Jan 2023

WOMAN GANG-RAPED ON PRETEXT OF PROVIDING JOB

A woman was gang-raped on the pretext of providing her job in the limits of Gujjarpura police on Sunday. The accused also made a video and threatened the victim of dire consequences. Police shifted the victim to the hospital for medical treatment and registered a case. The accused Khalil along with his accomplices tricked the victim by offering her a job and called her to Kot Khawaja Saeed Hospital where they gang-raped her and left her in critical condition. Police shifted the woman to the hospital for immediate medical assistance and registered a case on the request of the woman.

Source: The News

Date: 9th Jan 2023



MAJOR STORIES

**Click on the heading to read the full story*

HUSBAND STABS WIFE TO DEATH

Husband stabbed his 55-year-old wife to death with an axe in Green Town on Monday. Reportedly, the suspect Ghulam Rasool was married to Sabira Bibi and the couple would often quarrel with each other. On the day of the incident, Ghulam Rasool again had a heated exchange of words with his wife and was so frustrated that he attacked the victim with an axe. She received injuries and died. Police removed the body to morgue and were investigating the matter further. The suspect after the incident fled from the scene. Police said that they were searching for him.

Source: *The News*

Date: *10th Jan 2023*



SHARIAT COURT SEEKS SOPS FOR TRANSGENDER CENTRES

The Federal Shariat Court (FSC) on Tuesday sought a fresh report detailing standard operating procedures (SOPs) for the establishment of centres for transgender persons. The court also directed Secretary for Human Rights Ali Raza Bhutta to hold a meeting with a monitoring committee of experts on a daily basis regarding the establishment of the protection centres for intersex children and old-age transgender persons. The bench nominated Zamurad Khan as convener of the monitoring committee.

Source: *Dawn*

Date: *11th Jan 2023*

GB LADY HEALTH WORKERS CONTINUE PROTEST DESPITE HARSH WEATHER

Scores of temporary lady health workers in Gilgit-Baltistan staged a protest sit in outside the Chief Minister house against suspension of their appointments. The protesters blocked River View road in Gilgit, despite harsh weather. According to the protesters, the last GB government had advertised over 600 temporary posts of lady health workers in the national programme for family planning and primary health care in 10 districts of GB. Thousands of candidates had applied for the post.

Source: *Dawn*

Date: *12th Jan 2023*



'UNMET NEED FOR FAMILY PLANNING HIGHEST AMONGST POOREST WOMEN'

"Poorest women in Pakistan need to be provided subsidies for travel and other out-of-pocket expenses incurred to meet service provider fees in reaching family planning services through incentivized voucher schemes," said Faisal Kundi, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety at the ceremony to launch scale-up of family planning voucher scheme in Punjab, organised by the Population Council.

Source: *The News*

Date: *13th Jan 2023*

MAJOR STORIES

**Click on the heading to read the full story*

ARFA KAREEM REMEMBERED

The 11th death anniversary of world's youngest Microsoft Certified Professional (MCP) late Arfa Kareem was observed . Addressing the ceremony, DC paid tribute to MCP Arfa Kareem and announced to launch Arfa Kareem Talent Award in Faisalabad.

Source: *The Nation* **Date:** 15th Jan 2023



CALL FOR CHANGING NARRATIVE AGAINST HARASSMENT VIA DIGITAL OUTREACH

The Uks Research Centre on Saturday held a 'Dialogue for Change' webinar on 'Sexual Harassment in Public Spaces' to address the gate-crashing and women harassment cases on the Karachi Eat festival's third day. They also discussed why men unaccompanied by women are not allowed inside the city's malls. Senior democratic and local government specialist Fauzia Yazdani shared how the distribution of dignity kits was a hassle in the flood-hit areas. She said that to make the National Disaster Management Authority understand the needs of women is "next to impossible".

Source: *The News*

Date: 15th Jan 2023



UN EXPERTS ALARMED AT RISING CASES OF FORCED MARRIAGES IN PAKISTAN

UN human rights experts have expressed alarm at the reported rise in abductions, forced marriages and conversions of underage girls and young women from religious minorities in Pakistan, and called for immediate efforts to curtail practices and ensure justice for victims. Noting Pakistan's previous attempts to pass legislation that will prohibit forced conversions and protect religious minorities, the experts deplored the ongoing lack of access to justice for victims and their families. Reports suggest these so-called marriages and conversions take place with the involvement of religious authorities and the complicity of security forces and the justice system. The experts said it was imperative that all victims, regardless of religious background, were afforded access to justice and equal protection under the law.

Source: *Dawn*

Date: 18th Jan 2023

MAJOR STORIES

**Click on the heading to read the full story*

APPOINTMENT OF WOMEN SHOS MADE COMPULSORY

Inspector General Police Punjab Amir Zulfiqar Khan has issued orders of appointing a female SHO in at least one police station in every district of the province within the next five days. An order issued by the IGP titled, "Enhance the role of women police officers" to all the Punjab Police commanding officers read, "every district should post one female SHO by Friday in any police station that DPO thinks fit". In compliance with orders, SI Mehwish Aslam has been appointed as the first female SHO in Hafizabad district at Laleki Mandi police station.

Source: *Express Tribune*

Date: *19th Jan 2023*



GIRLS BOOKED FOR TORTURING CLASSMATE IN LAHORE SCHOOL GET PRE-ARREST BAIL

A sessions court in Lahore Saturday granted pre-arrest bail to four female students who were booked for allegedly manhandling their classfellow at a private school in the Defence Housing Authority (DHA) area of the provincial capital. The court approved their bail against surety bonds worth Rs50,000 each and barred the police from arresting them till January 30.

Source: *The News*

Date: *22nd Jan 2023*



ATTOCK GETS FIRST WOMAN SHO

For the first time in the 119 years of its history, Attock district police appointed a woman as a station house officer (SHO) of a police station. The development came after Inspector General of Police (IGP) Punjab Amir Zulfiqar Khan made the appointment of a woman SHO in each district of the province mandatory under a new policy. A circular in this regard was issued to all regional and district police officers of Punjab titled 'Enhance Role of Women Police Officers'. She joined the police service as assistant sub-inspector (ASI) on April 4, 1996.

Source: *Dawn*

Date: *23rd Jan 2023*



MAN KILLS DAUGHTER FOR 'HONOUR' INSIDE KARACHI COURT

A woman was allegedly shot dead Monday in the name of honour inside the premises of the city court in the metropolis, police said. Hajra, the victim, was killed by her own father as she entered marriage according to her free will without the consent of parents. Meanwhile, her father – 65-year-old suspect Ameer Zaman Mehsud – was chasing them and as soon as the woman reached the court's premises, he opened fire near gate number four.

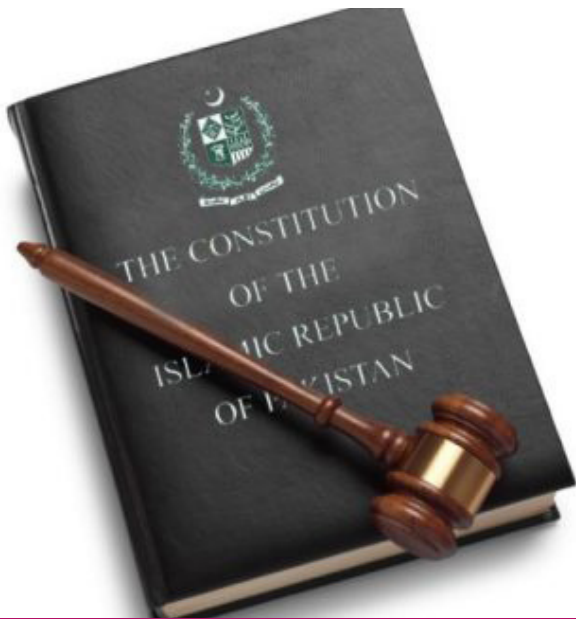
Source: *Daily Times*

Date: *24th Jan 2023*



MAJOR STORIES

**Click on the heading to read the full story*



1973 CONSTITUTION TO BE TAUGHT IN SCHOOLS

The federal government has decided to teach the Constitution of Pakistan in schools, the Head of the Prime Minister's Strategic Reforms Unit, Salman Sufi, has announced. Taking to Twitter, Sufi penned that the Federal Education Minister Rana Tanveer Hussain will officially launch the initiative on 23rd March – Pakistan Day. The initiative will be launched in Islamabad initially, reported local media. Sufi added that this initiative has been taken on the directions of PM Shehbaz Sharif.

Responding to the development, PPP Senator Sehar Kamran revealed that she strived hard to make the Constitution and Civic Education mandatory part of the curriculum.

Source: *The News*

Date: 25th Jan 2023

ROOHI REMEMBERED ON FOURTH DEATH ANNIVERSARY

The 4th death anniversary of famous TV and film actor Roohi Bano is being observed on Wednesday. Rohi Bano was born in Karachi on Aug 10, 1951. She was known for her roles in "Kiran Kahani", "Zard Gulab" and "Darwaza". She was conferred the Pride of Performance award by the President of Pakistan in 1981. She also earned many PTV awards, notably Nigar Award, Graduate Award and Lux Lifetime Achievement Award. She breathed her last on January 25, 2019 in Istanbul.

Source: *Daily Times*

Date: 26th Jan 2023



MAJOR STORIES

**Click on the heading to read the full story*

WOMEN-EXCLUSIVE PINK BUS SERVICE TO START ON FEBRUARY 1

In a praiseworthy move to facilitate the commute of women in the city, the Sindh government has announced starting the Pink Bus Service, which will exclusively be for female passengers, in Karachi on February 1. The announcement to this effect was made at a meeting chaired by Sindh Information and Transport Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon on Thursday. The transport minister said the Pink Bus Service in the city would especially facilitate woman workforce and female students.

Source: *The News*

Date: 27th Jan 2023



SC DIRECTS SINDH GOVT TO RECOVER MISSING GIRLS WITHIN MONTH

The Supreme Court (SC) on Friday directed the Sindh government to recover the two missing daughters of Dr. Mehreen Baloch within one month and submit the report to the court. Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Umar Ata Bandial expressed annoyance over the non-recovery of the girls for five years and remarked that the court was not using the suo-moto powers. The CJP remarked that the court wanted to strengthen the state institutions.

Source: *Daily Times*

Date: 28th Jan 2023

TRANS PERSONS TO GET RS7,000 STIPEND

Chairperson of Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) Shazia Marri on Sunday announced Rs7000 allowance to transgender persons to be disbursed every third month under the Benazir Kafalat programme. The minister claimed as many as 50 thousand persons among the country's transgender population had been registered as beneficiaries of the Benazir Kafalat Programme, making them eligible for the cash assistance. She said that transgender community avoided coming forward before the data managers due to society's behaviour towards them.

Source: *Express Tribune*

Date: 30th Jan 2023



MAN JAILED FOR LIFE IN SU STUDENT NAILA RIND'S 'SUICIDE' CASE

An antiterrorism court on Monday sentenced a man to life imprisonment in the 2017 Sindh University student Naila Rind suicide case. ATC-I Judge Nadeem Ahmed Akhund found accused Anis Khaskheli guilty of the offence punishable under Section 7-A of the Anti-Terrorism Act of 1997. The court imposed a fine of Rs200,000 on him and in case of default he would have to undergo another six-month imprisonment. The payment of fine shall be paid to legal heirs of deceased Naila Rind, a final year student of department of Sindhi at SU.

Source: *Dawn*

Date: 31st Jan 2023



Stories In The Digital Sphere

A ROUNDUP OF THIS MONTH'S TRENDS AND VIRAL STORIES ON GENDER-RELATED ISSUE ON PAKISTAN'S INTERNET. CLICK ON THE TAGS TO SEE THE CONVO

#Keamari

18 mysterious deaths reported in Keamari, Karachi with symptoms of fever, sore throat, and shortness of breath. Many women and children also died.

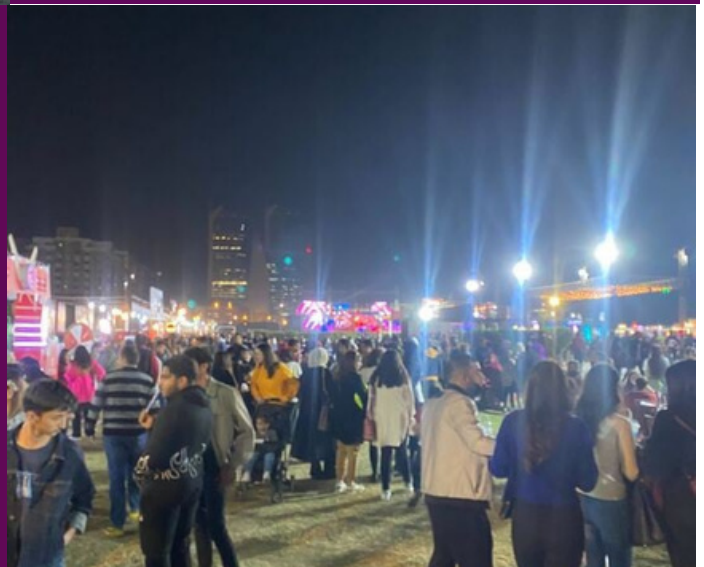


#Lasbela

In Lasbela Balochiostan more than 40 people were killed (including 8 women) in a bus after it fell into a ravine and caught fire. A rescue operation was conducted to retrieve the victims alive and dead

#KarachiEat2023

At the annual Karachi Eat festival stags gatecrashed the event on the third day and harassed the women and girls attending the event. This hashtag was used to share videos and images of the attack



#ScarsdaleSchool

A video about a group of high school children bullying a girl became viral on social media. The hashtag was used to raise awareness about the incident. And to discuss school bullying in Pakistan



#JusticeForQuratulain

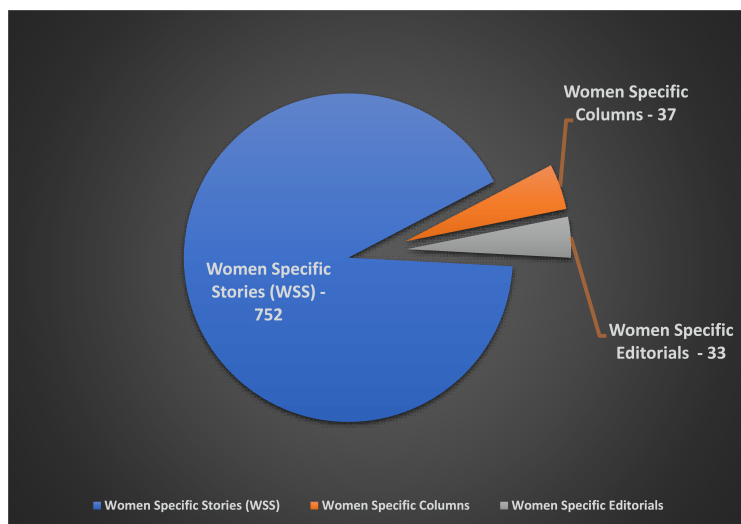
Quratulain Baloch's killer (her husband) was found guilty of murdering her a year ago. He has been given the death penalty. This hashtag was used to remember the victim

Media Statistics

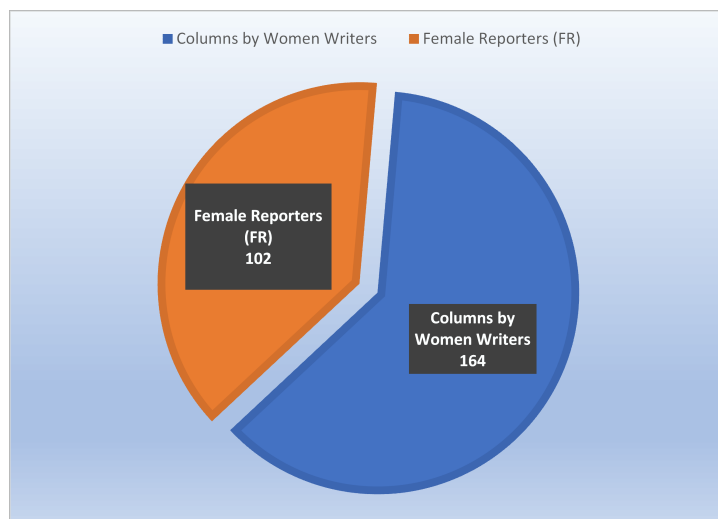
Data derived is from media-monitoring throughout January 2023



'Descriptive Analysis of Print Media'



Graph 1: Number of women-specific stories, columns and editorial



Graph 2: Number of female reporters and women columnists

❖ Breakdown of the Monitored Content:

	Urdu	Daily Ausaf	Daily Khabrain	Daily Pakistan	Daily Jinnah	English	Daily Times	The News	Dawn	Express Tribune	The Nation	Total Print Media
Women Specific Stories (WSS)	162	39	55	33	35	590	104	134	105	152	95	752
Front Page WSS	10	3	0	3	4	13	0	6	4	2	1	23
Back Page WSS	48	11	16	14	7	29	9	9	3	1	7	77
Women Specific Columns	5	0	0	1	4	32	9	14	4	1	4	37
Women Specific Editorials	0	0	0	0	0	33	5	6	7	9	6	33
Columns by Women Writers	8	0	2	0	6	156	34	40	43	13	26	164
Female Reporters (FR)	29	0	1	28	0	73	2	53	10	8	0	102
Front Page FR	4	0	0	4	0	13	0	11	2	0	0	17
Back Page FR	3	0	1	2	0	6	0	6	0	0	0	9

Table1: Breakdown of all the monitored content of English and Urdu print media

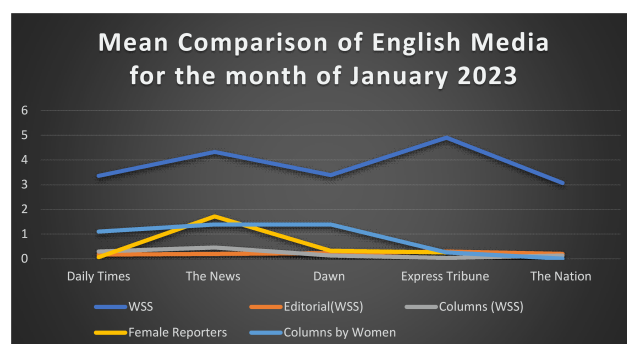
1. Women-specific includes all the news stories, columns and editorials that are dedicated to women's achievements, problems, status etc. [Click here](#) to see all categories classified as women-specific
2. All female sources that are named and not named (such as lady reporter) are considered female reporters.

❖ Mean Comparison of English Media:

	WSS		Editorial(WSS)		Columns (WSS)		Female Reporters		Columns by Women	
	Mean	S.D	Mean	S.D	Mean	S.D	Mean	S.D	Mean	S.D
Daily Times	3.3548	0.8848	0.29032	0.3739	0.3871	0.58842	0	0	0.80645	0.9123
The News	6.1613	2.0718	0.25806	0.4629	0.19355	0.85005	1.6452	1.7738	1.03226	1.0706
Dawn	4.6129	1.7258	0.41935	0.425	0.29032	0.17961	0.1613	0.5408	1.32258	1.5747
Express Tribune	6	2.809	0.51613	0.5884	0.16129	0.17961	0.1613	0.5143	0.6129	0.6204
The Nation	4.6452	1.6919	0.22581	0.4016	0.22581	0.34078	0.0323	0	0.51613	1.0984

Mean is Average and S.D. is Standard Deviation

Table 2: Mean Comparison table of English Media



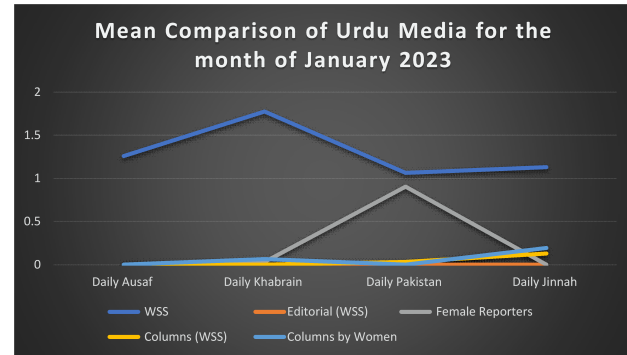
Graph 3: Mean Comparison of English Media

❖ Mean Comparison of Urdu Media:

	WSS		Editorial (WSS)		Columns (WSS)		Female Reporters		Columns by Women	
	Mean	S.D.	Mean	S.D.	Mean	S.D.	Mean	S.D.	Mean	S.D.
	Daily Ausaf	1.25806	0.735	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Daily Khabrain	1.77419	1.431	0	0	0	0	0.032	0	0.0645	0.24973
Daily Pakistan	1.06452	1.399	0	0	0.032	0.1796	0.903	1.1378	0	0
Daily Jinnah	1.12903	0.885	0	0	0.129	0.4275	0	0	0.1935	0.40161

Mean is Average and S.D. is Standard Deviation

Table 3: Mean Comparison table of Urdu Media



Graph 4: Mean Comparison of Urdu Media

'Descriptive Analysis of Electronic Media'

❖ Analysis of Primetime News Talkshows:

Primetime talk shows of 5 national news channels were monitored 2 days a week in December 2022. [Click here](#) to see the methodology

Total Topic/Stories Covered	Women Specific Topic/Stories	%	Total No. of Guests	Women Guests	%	Total No. of Shows	Shows with Manels	%
47	4	8.51%	126	12	9.52%	42	29	69.05%

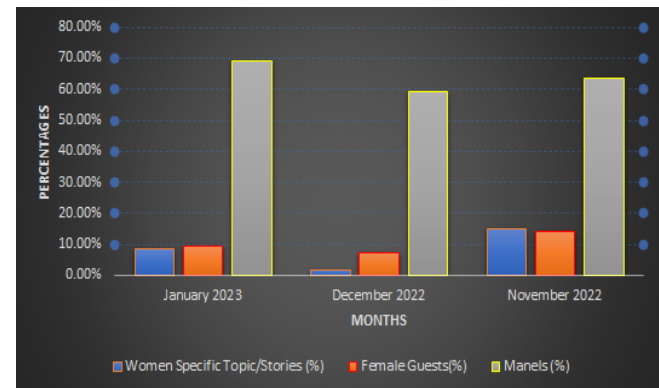
Table 4: Breakdown of monitoring of primetime talkshows by percentage

❖ Monthly Comparison of Primetime Talkshows

	Women Specific Topic/Stories (%)	Female Guests (%)	Manels (%)
January 2023	8.50%	9.50%	69.00%
December 2022	1.85%	7.41%	59.26%
November 2022	15.15%	14.04%	63.64%

"Manels" are talk shows with all male panels

Table 5: Monthly Comparison of Primetime talkshows by percentages



Graph 5: Monthly Comparison of Primetime talkshows by percentages

❖ Analysis of Prime News Bulletins:

January 2023			Dec-22	Nov-22
Total No. of Stories	No. of Women Specific Stories	%	%	%
798	41	↓ 5.14%	↓ 5.11%	↑ 5.95%

Table 6: Breakdown of the monitoring of Primetime bulletins of the month of January 2023 and monthly break down by percentages

- Upward arrow represents the higher percentage while downward arrows represent lower percentages.
- In the months of January 2023 and December 2022 the percentage of women - specific stories in primetime news bulletins was low.
- In the month of November 2022 this percentage was high.



Pictures of The Month



A girls' team played an ice hockey match in Chitral. The event was sponsored by the Canadian government

Courtesy: Express Tribune

A woman casts her vote at a polling station during the local government elections in Hyderabad



Courtesy: Dawn



A large number of women stand in a queue to purchase flour bags at subsidised rates at the Ghanta Ghar Chowk in Multan

Courtesy: The News



Pictures of The Month



Students hold placards inscribed with slogans against illegal occupation of Jammu and Kashmir in Muzaffarabad

Courtesy: Express Tribune

A district health worker gives drops to a child on a railway track at Marir Chowk in Rawalpindi on the inaugural day of the year's first anti-polio campaign

Courtesy: Dawn



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GenderWatch

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