



GENDER & MEDIA WATCH

November 2024



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

EDITOR'S NOTE

Women of Parachinar: Where Are They?

November was a devastating month for the people of Parachinar. Sectarian violence claimed the lives of more than 110 people, leaving many more injured. With the area's history of ongoing unrest, this incident is one of the deadliest Pakistan has seen in recent years. Even though political turmoil elsewhere in the country has overshadowed the tragedy, it has still received daily coverage in the news.

What hasn't been extensively covered, however, is the plight of the women affected by this violence.

In a country where women often face insurmountable challenges and where victims of assault and violence are frequently overlooked, it's important to recognise that women victims of such tragedies endure unique hardships. During any crisis or disaster, whether natural or human made, women get neglected and sidelined by the media which somehow doesn't bring out voices and concerns of women, who are already marginalised segment of our population.

Firstly, no accurate count of the female victims has been provided. While efforts to confirm fatalities continue, the absence of gender-specific data can create the impression that women were unaffected by the conflict. A detailed demographic breakdown by age and gender - would offer an understanding of how the violence impacted Parachinar and whether the effects were targeted.

Secondly, little is known about the condition of the women and girls who were injured. What medical care are they receiving? How severe are their injuries?

Are mental health services being provided to them? In a society that expects women to endure pain silently and with "dignity," the toll of such expectations can be immense. Injuries - both physical or psychological - can lead to ostracism, particularly if these women are no longer able to fulfill their traditional roles. Coverage of their stories is vital to raise awareness of their needs and the challenges they face.

Lastly, the survivors. If male relatives, i.e. husbands, fathers, or sons, have been killed, what happens to the women left behind? What legal hurdles must they overcome to confirm the identities of their loved ones or to get compensation? Women from conservative areas like Parachinar often depend on male family members for mobility and decision-making. Without such support, even obtaining basic legal documents can become a monumental challenge, especially in a society where widows are expected to remain in mourning at home. Are these women receiving the legal and social support they need to navigate their new realities?

Highlighting these issues isn't about looking at the tragedy through a "gender-biased" lens - it's about acknowledging an aspect of the conflict that cannot be ignored. The women of Parachinar are also victims of this terrible violence, and they deserve empathy, attention, and tangible support. They must not be left to shoulder the burdens of grief, injury, and systemic neglect alone.

Pakistan's media, civil society, and policymakers must step up to ensure that the voices of these women are heard and their needs addressed. For them to rebuild their lives, we must start by recognising their suffering and standing with them in solidarity.

MAJOR STORIES

*Click on the heading to read the full story

01
November
Dawn

WEBINAR HIGHLIGHTS GROUNDBREAKING RESEARCH ON ONLINE MISOGYNY

The media monitoring organisation Uks Research Resource Centre hosted a webinar on 'SafeWords: Combating Sexist Abuse in Urdu and Punjabi' in collaboration with WACC to showcase the findings and achievements of their year-long project about sexist and abuse in Urdu and Punjabi on Thursday. Speaking about the project, the director of Uks said that they started a 365-day campaign '#pehlaysochophirbolo' or '#thinkbeforeyouspeak' where they undertook several activities for collecting data on the sexist and abusive terminology and language used on social media.



03
November
The News

RIU HOLDS BREAST CANCER AWARENESS SESSION

Riphah International University (RIU) organised a breast cancer awareness session at Gulberg Greens Campus as the concluding event of a series of impactful sessions conducted throughout Pink October, says a press release. The theme of the session was Advocate, Contribute, and Act, encouraging participants to take active steps in supporting women's health. Dr. Maryam Iftikhar, a renowned consultant surgeon at Pakistan Railway Hospital.



06
November
The Nation

MEETING HELD TO TACKLE GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

The forum brought together esteemed dignitaries from the United Nations, the FIA Cybercrime Wing, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police, academia, ombudsperson representatives, and practicing advocates from the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Bar Council, marking a significant step toward combating GBV more effectively. By uniting investigating agencies and harnessing their expertise, Islamic Relief Pakistan has made strides in building confidence and enhancing efforts to counter GBV in all its forms, fostering a collaborative approach among various departments and agencies.



08
November
Daily Times

EMPOWERING WOMEN'S RESILIENCE AT COP29

In Pakistan, climate change isn't just a distant concern or the subject of summits; it's part of the reality we live every day. As a policy analyst, I see it play out on the faces of rural women burdened with heavier, longer walks to fetch water from wells running dry. I hear it in the whispers of coastal communities worried about creeping sea levels and, in our bustling urban areas, I feel it in the increasingly scorching, unbearable summer heat.



MAJOR STORIES

*Click on the heading to read the full story

12
November
Dawn

AGAINST ALL ODDS, OVER 50 WOMEN START OWN BUSINESSES IN MILITANCY- HIT BARA

Defying tribal customs, more than 50 enterprising women have started own businesses from their homes in different parts of the militancy-affected Bara tehsil here to ward off any adverse reaction from the local community. Driven by sheer poverty and rising inflation, these tribal women, including some unmarried ones, opened shops to manage household expenses, fund the medical treatment of husbands, and support their children's education.



14
November
Express Tribune

SINDH DRAFTS COUNTRY'S FIRST TRANSGENDER EDUCATION POLICY

Pakistan's first-ever Transgender Education Policy draft was approved in a meeting chaired by Sindh's Minister for Education Sardar Ali Shah on Wednesday.

The policy proposes adding a separate category for transgender children in admission forms for schools and colleges alongside male and female options. It also includes reserving job quotas for transgender individuals during teacher recruitment. The draft will be presented to the cabinet for legal approval.



19
November
The News

BUILDING DREAMS

Despite significant hurdles, women entrepreneurs in Pakistan are breaking boundaries and reshaping the economic terrain of the country. Pakistan, a country with significant entrepreneurial potential, is home to many ambitious women who see business as both a pathway to financial independence and a means to make a difference. Every November 19th, the world celebrates Women's Entrepreneurship Day - a tribute to women who've not only ventured into business but also battled social norms, financial barriers, and limited access to resources.



20
November
Daily Times

GOVERNOR SBP UNDERSCORES NEED TO SUPPORT WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS

The Governor State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), Jameel Ahmad, Tuesday, emphasized the importance of supporting women entrepreneurs for pacifying economic growth in the country, noting that women currently make up less than 10 percent of total borrowers and hold only 26% of bank accounts. The governor SBP, while addressing the main event of Women Entrepreneurship Day here at SBP Museum, also reaffirmed commitment to enhancing women's participation in the economic landscape.



MAJOR STORIES

*Click on the heading to read the full story

22
November
Express
Tribune

WOMAN FOOD OFFICIAL BEATEN, HARASSED IN 'RETALIATORY' RAID

The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) in Sargodha has registered a case against multiple police officers, including former SHO of Piplan police station, Malik Fayaz, and three others, for allegedly torturing women, violating the sanctity of their home, and abusing their authority. During the raid, they arrested women from the household, subjected them to severe physical abuse, and transported them to the police station, where further mistreatment occurred. The incident stems from an earlier FIR filed by Assistant Food Safety Officer Aneela Shamshad against Irfanul Haq, a bakery owner in Piplan.



24
November
Dawn

STEPS URGED TO IMPLEMENT LAW AGAINST RAPE IN BALOCHISTAN

The Legal Aid Society, in collaboration with the Ministry of Law and Justice, the Balochistan government, and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), hosted a pivotal consultation to strengthen the implementation of the Anti-Rape (Investigation and Trial) Act, 2021, and establish Anti-Rape Crisis Cells in Balochistan. They underscored the importance of multi-sectoral collaboration, uniting government officials, legal experts, and key stakeholders to address challenges and develop survivor-centric strategies.



28
November
The News

ASEEFA HIGHLIGHTS WOMEN'S CONTRIBUTION IN PAKISTAN

First Lady Aseefa Bhutto Zardari made a prominent appearance at the Global Women's Forum in Dubai, where she shed light on the invaluable contributions women have made to Pakistani society. Organised by Dubai Women's Establishment, its inaugural session was attended by Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE Sheikh Muhammad bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Emine Erdogan, First Lady of Türkiye and Her Highness Louise Araneta Marcos, First Lady of Philippines. The event attracted approximately 6,000 dignitaries and advocates for women's empowerment and gender balance.



29
November
Daily
Times

PARTICIPATION OF OVER 250 FEMALES IN YOUTH FESTIVAL WELCOME SIGN: DG SPORTS

Director General Sports Punjab Pervez Iqbal said that the participation of more than 250 female athletes in the Lahore Youth Festival (LYF) 2024 trials is a welcome sign and the enthusiasm of the players in the trials is treat to watch. Director General Sports Punjab Pervez Iqbal, who was the chief guest at the trials, expressed these views while talking to media at the trials of Lahore Youth Festival being conducted at the Punjab Stadium on Monday. Director General Sports Punjab Pervez Iqbal witnessed the trials and appreciated the performance of participating female players.



EDITORIAL ON GENDER

What have editors said about gender issues in Pakistan? Click on the boxes and find out!

DAWN

[Unsafe inheritance](#)

[Narrowing the gap](#)

[Bara's businesswomen](#)

[Anti-women state](#)

THE NEWS

[No world for women](#)

[Empowering fisherwomen](#)

[Mastung attack](#)

[Digital dominoes](#)

[Endemic abuse](#)

[Cost of silence](#)

DAILY TIMES

[Population Pakistan](#)

[Domestic Despair](#)

[Harassment & Hurdles](#)

EXPRESS TRIBUNE

[Inclusive education](#)

[Suffocating Punjab](#)

[Sex offenders register](#)

[Ballooning population](#)

[Mastung blast](#)

[Troubling diagnosis](#)

STORIES IN THE DIGITAL SPHERE

A roundup of this month's trends and viral stories on gender-related issue on Pakistan's internet

#Parachinar

Pakistanis online expressed grief and outrage online over the number of people killed violently from sectarian clashes in Parachinar. Print and online media were reporting on this story daily, providing new details about the number of victims, including women and children



#MahiraKhan

Pakistani actress Mahira Khan received the Award of Recognition from the UK Parliament for her contributions to global cinema and her advocacy for women's empowerment. Netizens congratulated her for her achievement



MEDIA STATISTICS

Data derived from media-monitoring throughout
November 2024

Descriptive						
	Total	Daily Times	The News	Dawn	Express Tribune	The Nation
Women Specific Stories (WSS)	724	154	161	123	159	127
Front Page WSS	40	11	13	6	3	7
Back Page WSS	63	26	19	2	26	15
Women Specific Columns	20	5	3	10	2	0
Columns by Women Writers	120	18	26	37	21	18
Women Specific Editorials	18	3	6	4	5	0
Female Reporters (FR)	213	9	104	54	46	0
Front Page FR	20	1	15	4	0	0
Back Page FR	13	0	8	5	0	0

Comparative Mean					
	WSS	Editorial(WSS)	Female Reporter	Columns (WSS)	Columns by Women
Daily Times	4.967742	1	0.2903226	0.16129	0.58064516
The News	5.193548	1	3.3548387	0.096774	0.83870968
Daily Dawn	3.967742	1	1.7419355	0.322581	1.19354839
Express Tribune	5.129032	1.25	1.483871	0.064516	0.67741935
The Nation	4.096774	#DIV/0!	0	0	0.58064516

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

PICTURES OF THE MONTH



Hyderabad: Girls
Viewing the handmade
clothes of Thar on stall
during Thar festival at
Sindh museum

Courtesy: The Nation

Faisalabad: Female
motorcyclists on the way
to her destination



Courtesy: The News



Islamabad: Artists giving
dance performance at the
inaugural ceremony of
prime minister university
sports Olympiad at
Pakistan sports complex

Courtesy: Dawn

PICTURES OF THE MONTH



Lahore: Students wearing face masks leave after school as government ordered the closure of all higher secondary schools due to soaring pollution levels

Courtesy:
The Express Tribune

Islamabad: A Female participant throwing a javelin, during the prime minister;s university sports Olympiad at sports Complex

Courtesy: Daily Dawn



Peshawar: Visitors take keen interest in a model of flowers at an exhibition held at nishtar hall

Courtesy: The Nation

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GenderWatch

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