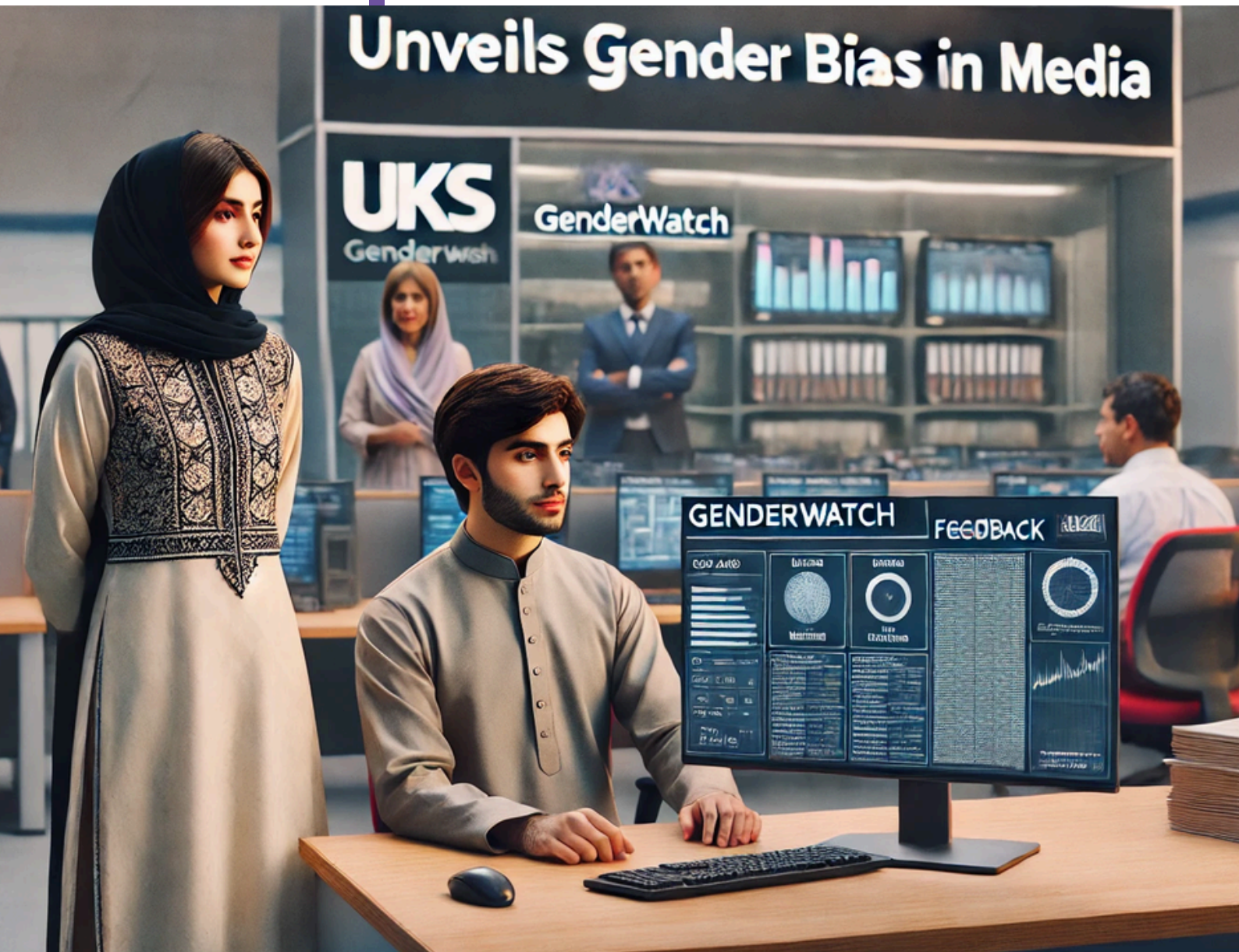




GENDER & MEDIA WATCH

January 2025



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

EDITOR'S NOTE

Balancing Media Regulation and Freedom: The Role of Uks AI in the Context of PECA

The Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (PECA), enacted in 2016, was designed to address cybercrimes in Pakistan. However, recent amendments have sparked concerns among human rights organizations, including Amnesty International and the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, who warn that these changes could further tighten governmental control over Pakistan's digital landscape, potentially stifling freedom of expression.

In this context, the Uks Research Centre's introduction of Uks AI (Beta) offers a promising alternative for media regulation. This innovative tool is designed to detect and address gender bias in media content, providing journalists, editors, and reporters with immediate, actionable feedback.

By promoting self-regulation within media organizations, Uks AI empowers professionals to create content that is both responsible and free from bias, reducing the need for external regulatory interventions.

Uks AI operates on the principles of transparency and collaboration, encouraging media practitioners to reflect on their work and make conscious efforts to avoid perpetuating stereotypes. This approach aligns with the need for media regulation that upholds freedom of expression while ensuring accountability.

By fostering an environment where media entities can self-monitor and improve their content, tools like Uks AI can help achieve the objectives of laws like PECA without imposing restrictive measures that may curb fundamental rights.

As Pakistan navigates the complexities of regulating digital content, it is crucial to consider solutions that balance the enforcement of ethical standards with the preservation of free speech. The Uks Research Centre's initiative exemplifies how innovative, non-intrusive tools can contribute to responsible media practices, offering a pathway to regulation that respects both the integrity of the media and the rights of individuals.

MAJOR STORIES

*Click on the heading to read the full story

02
January
Dawn

PUNJAB GOVT URGED TO RAISE GIRLS' MINIMUM AGE FOR MARRIAGE

Participants of an awareness session on Wednesday urged the Punjab government to raise the minimum age of marriage for girls from 16 to 18 years in the province to ensure a safe future for them. The resolution aimed to safeguard adolescent girls' fundamental rights, including access to education, reproductive health services and employment opportunities. Health expert spotlights alarming health consequences of child marriages. The session drew diverse participants, including academicians, members of bar associations, health professionals, rights activists and government officials.



06
January
The News

CTP DRIVING SCHOOL EMPOWERING WOMEN UNDER 'WOMEN ON WHEELS PROGRAM'

The Driving School of City Traffic Police (CTP) Rawalpindi on the directives of City Traffic Officer (CTO), Beenish Fatima is empowering women under 'Women on Wheels Programme' as over 1258 female learners were given training in 2024. Total 2,796 citizens including 1,258 female and 1,538 male were given training in CTP Driving School last year while 112 women also got training to drive bikes and scooters under the Women on Wheels Program



07
January
The Nation

SENATE BODY RECOMMENDS HOUSING MINISTRY TO HAND OVER HOUSE TO WIDOW

The Senate Sub-Committee on Housing and Works on Monday recommended the Ministry of Housing to hand over the house to the widow. The committee meeting was held under the chairmanship of Convener Committee Senator Raja Nasir Abbas. The issue of alleged illegal occupation of an official residence by a widow was considered in the meeting of the committee. The petition filed by the widow regarding illegal hand over of her official residence to another citizen was considered.



08
January
Express Tribune

NO HAJJ FOR WOMEN WITHOUT MEHRAM'S PERMISSION

Every year, the world marks 16 Days of Activism against violence towards women, but one stark question persists: Are we genuinely advancing toward a world free of gender-based abuse, or are we merely celebrating progress that remains largely elusive? "As the world has recently observed the 16 Days of Activism for the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, a troubling question remains: can we truly end the centuries-old atrocities that women have faced, or are these observances simply empty rituals, signaling little more than symbolic acknowledgment?"



MAJOR STORIES

*Click on the heading to read the full story

11

January

The News

PM OPENS INT'L MOOT ON GIRLS' EDUCATION TODAY

The education ministry will host a two-day international conference on girls' education here today (Saturday). The moot, themed 'Girls' Education in Muslim Communities: Challenges and Opportunities,' will be opened by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif with a keynote address and reaffirm Pakistan's commitment to advancing girls' education and gender equality, according to ministry officials.



12

January

The Nation

PUNJAB CM LAUNCHES 'DHI RANI PROGRAM', DISTRIBUTES GIFTS AMONG NEWLYWEDS

Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif launched the ground breaking 'Punjab Dhi Rani Program' at a mass wedding ceremony, held at one of Lahore's premier marriage halls on Saturday. During the event, 51 couples were married, including five Christian brides and grooms. The chief minister expressed her heartfelt wishes for the newlyweds, saying, "Marriage is an emotional moment for both the children and their parents."



15
January

Dawn

POLICE LAUNCHES UNITS TO INVESTIGATE SEXUAL CRIMES UNDER ANTI-RAPE ACT

The Punjab police investigation department is all set to field 1,450 specially trained officers to run the Special Sexual Offences Investigation Units (SSOIs) across the province in alignment with the Anti-Rape (Investigation and Trial) Act. These dedicated units were established in Punjab under section 9 of the Anti-Rape (Investigation and Trial) Act 2021 following the longstanding complaints of defective investigations into the rape and other sexual crime cases.



16
January

Daily Times

DR NAFISA SHAH ELECTED GENDER COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

The National Assembly Special Committee on Gender Mainstreaming unanimously elected Dr. Nafisa Shah as its chairperson on Wednesday at Parliament House. Member National Assembly (MNA) Syed Hussain Tariq proposed Dr. Nafisa Shah as Chairperson of the Special Committee, with Shaista Pervaiz and other MNAs and Senators supporting the proposal. Dr. Nafisa Shah, MNA, thanked the committee members for their trust and support in her new role.



MAJOR STORIES

*Click on the heading to read the full story

21
January
The News

EMPOWERING WOMEN, EMPOWERING PUNJAB

Gender equality is more than a moral imperative; it is essential for a fair and just society and a catalyst for economic and social progress. It is enshrined in Pakistan's constitution and reinforced by our commitments to international frameworks like the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). Under patriarchal structures, women's labour is often unrecognised, undervalued, and excluded from formal decision-making processes.



22
January
Daily Times

SENATE PASSES NATIONAL COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN BILL

The Senate of Pakistan has passed the National Commission on the Status of Women (Amendment) Bill, 2025 aimed at improving the clarity and functionality of the existing legislation governing the commission's operations. The bill, introduced by the Minister for Human Rights, Azam Nazeer Tarar, seeks to amend the National Commission on the Status of Women Act, 2012.



28
January
Express Tribune

FEMALE ENTREPRENEURS SHAPE DIGITAL MARKETPLACE

In the ever-evolving world of e-commerce, a new generation of women online entrepreneurs is becoming increasingly prominent, marking a significant shift in the digital landscape. With the internet as their catalyst, numerous women have embarked on careers in online entrepreneurship and transforming their passions into successful businesses, empowering others to pursue their entrepreneurial dreams."



29
January
The Nation

FOSPAH HOSTS FIRST OPEN COURT ON WOMEN'S PROPERTY RIGHTS ACT, 2020

The Federal Ombudsman Secretariat for Protection Against Harassment (FOSPAH) here on Tuesday held an open court to address women's property rights in ICT under Enforcement of Women's Property Rights Act, 2020. The Honorable Federal Ombudsman, Ms Fauzia Viqar, personally heard grievances from women, taking their complaints on spot and providing them with guidance and practical solutions to secure their property rights. Complaints were largely focused on women's property issues



EDITORIAL ON GENDER

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

DAWN

[Biometrics for kids](#)

[Born into hunger](#)

[Anything goes](#)

[Left behind](#)

[Anti-abuse action](#)

[Nutrition challenge](#)

[Hindu exodus](#)

DAILY TIMES

[Bursting Pressure Cooker](#)

[Educating Girls](#)

[Child Abuse](#)

[Misinformation, Misinformation](#)

[Pardon Hardened](#)

THE NATION

[Criminals Within](#)

[Failing Our Future](#)

[Digital Crimes](#)

THE NEWS

[Declaration for progress](#)

[Our future in danger](#)

[Missing out on the future](#)

[Subsidised lives](#)

[What women want](#)

[VAW continues](#)

EXPRESS TRIBUNE

[Scourge of child abuse](#)

[Workplace hazards](#)

[Child courts](#)

[Moot on girls' education](#)

[Cycle of violence](#)

[Education apartheid](#)

[Welcome admission](#)

[Anaemia crisis](#)

STORIES IN THE DIGITAL SPHERE

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

#DeepfakeAttacks

Female politicians increasingly became victims of AI-generated deep-fake pornography, in a troubling trend that researchers said threatened women's participation in public life.



#GirlsEducation Matters

Malala attended and spoke at the Muslim World League conference in Islamabad, calling on Muslim leaders to stand with Afghan women and girls in codifying gender apartheid as a crime of international law.

MEDIA STATISTICS

Data derived from media-monitoring throughout
January 2025

	Total	Daily Times	The News	Dawn	Express Tribune	The Nation
Women Specific Stories (WSS)	710	131	166	156	170	87
Front Page WSS	38	2	20	5	4	7
Back Page WSS	62	24	27	11	24	0
Women Specific Columns	31	1	6	8	13	3
Columns by Women Writers	152	22	29	35	45	21
Women Specific Editorials	9	0	1	5	3	0
Female Reporters (FR)	131	8	62	47	13	1
Front Page FR	19	0	17	0	2	0
Back Page FR	10	0	6	2	2	0

Comparative Mean					
	WSS	Editorial(WSS)	Female Reporter	Columns (WSS)	Columns by Women
Daily Times	4.225806	0	0.2580645	0.032258	0.70967742
The News	5.354839	0.033333	2	0.193548	0.93548387
Daily Dawn	5.032258	1	1.516129	0.258065	1.12903226
Express Tribune	5.483871	0.1	0.4193548	0.419355	1.4516129
The Nation	2.806452	0	0.0322581	0.096774	0.67741935

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



Lahore: Women busy in shopping used clothes from a cart near Nolaka landa Bazaar

Courtesy: The Nation

Lahore: Women Resource Centre & incubators of the Punjab government encourages and empowers women to take to take up entrepreneurship

Courtesy: The News



Islamabad: Young Artists paint the wall of zero point underpass as part of the capital's beautification plan

Courtesy: Dawn

PICTURES OF THE MONTH



Karachi: Jamaat e Islami supporters take to the streets of Karachi to celebrate the historic ceasefire between Israel and Hamas

Courtesy:
The Express Tribune

Rawalpindi: First Lady and MNA Aseefa Bhutto Zardari inquires about a patient at the armed forces institute of cardiology

Courtesy: Daily Dawn



Lahore: Female candidates Participate in physical test, running 1.6 Km within 7 minutes as part of the evaluation process

Courtesy: The Nation

UKS RESEARCH CENTER

CONTACT:

+90 518430475, 2305152, 2305110

EMAIL:

Info@uksresearch.com

SOCIAL MEDIA



ADDRESS:

Office 4B-4C 4th Floor, Gulberg Palace E-11/3 Islamabad

<https://uksresearch.com.pk/>

GenderWatch

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