



Youth Charter of Demands for Ending Child and Early-Age Marriages

Prepared by 500 female and male youth across the 4 provinces

The Law & Its Enforcement

To ensure appropriate laws and effective implementation, we demand that:

1. The legal age of marriage for girls be raised to 18 years for all citizens, across all territories and religious communities;
2. Child and underage marriages be recognised as a form of domestic violence and be criminalised in all provinces;
3. Stricter punishments for forcibly marrying girls and boys under the legal age;
4. All government hospitals issue birth certificates for all newborns to maintain birth records; steps be taken to ensure private clinics and hospitals do likewise;
5. Complaint centres be established at UC/village level to facilitate filing of cases of potential/actual underage marriages for swift action by the police, and women's desks established in all police stations to facilitate women lodging complaints;
6. Making Union Council officers responsible for the removal of all fees for birth registration, including late registration fees across Pakistan;
7. Ensuring regular and mandatory trainings for marriage registrars on marriage laws.

Education for Girls

To increase enrolment and retention of girls in schools at different levels, we demand:

8. Higher education opportunities for girls across Pakistan, in all regions and territories; establishing middle schools where only primary schools exist, and ensuring separate buildings for girls in co-educational colleges where there are currently no separate buildings;
9. Ensure public transport facilities to transport girls to and from schools and colleges;
10. Birth certificates be mandatory for school enrolment where this is not already the case;
11. All school curricula should include: laws relating to child marriages, family laws and offences under these, sexual harassment, and birth registration;



12. Extra-curricular activities in girls' schools, including mandatory physical education and self-defence classes in girls' primary and secondary schools.

Spreading Community Awareness

We demand that:

13. The scope of work of Female Welfare Workers and Lady Health Workers be expanded to increase awareness on the negative impact of CEAM on girls' health, especially reproductive health, and ensure these officers reach adolescent girls;
14. The Population Welfare Departments hire more male mobilisers and provide them with adequate training; as well as tasking Male Mobilisers with creating awareness among men and male youth on the negative impact of CEAM on youth; as well as the economic burden of CEAM on male youth;
15. The Youth Ministries provide more recreational opportunities & spaces in and outside schools including sports for girls and parks exclusively for women & girls;
16. Awareness sessions be conducted with communities on:
 - a. The importance and benefits of girls' education,
 - b. The negative impact of CEAM on the health of youth, especially girls',
 - c. The importance of registering births and how to obtain birth certificates and other crucial legal documents such as the CNIC,
 - d. How to fill out marriage contracts ensuring girls' rights, where and how to register these, and the attainment of to stop early age marriages.

Specific measures for religious minorities

17. We demand that family laws for all religious minorities be enacted in all provinces and territories, specifying the legal age of marriage for girls and boys as 18 years of age;
18. We demand that religious teachers from their communities be hired for non-Muslims in schools across Pakistan.