**Situation of Women in Pakistan**

In Pakistan the story of a woman's deprivations start even before her birth, because the girl-child is not a particularly 'wanted' child. Her life is a journey of subordination. When she is young her father decides for her on matters ranging from whether she will get any education, to the all important matters of whom she would marry. After marriage, her husband and her in-laws get hold of her reins and decide matters on her behalf; like shall she or shall she not have a child every year, or whether she would produce only boys, or whether she can seek independent employment and so on. Finally when she becomes old and her husband gets weak or may have gone already, it is her son or sons who decide her fate in the declining years of her life. As if this is not enough, the whole society acts as an oppressor, browbeating her in to obedience. Thus, the word 'woman' in Pakistan is synonymous with 'endurance'. She is simply forced to accept certain bare facts of life once she grows up to be a woman. Be it on streets, or for that matter in restaurants, a woman is first and foremost required to be alert. It is best to try and not notice, women are told. In addition to that, women in Pakistan face all kinds of gross violence and abuse at the hands of the male perpetuators, family members and state agents. Multiple forms of violence include rape; domestic abuse as spousal murder, mutilation, burning and disfiguring faces by acid, beatings; ritual honour-killings and custodial abuse and torture. Moreover several hundred women and girls die each year in so-called 'honor-killings' in Pakistan, in a backdrop to government inaction. She is killed like a bird in family dispute to create evidence of "illicit" connections and cover them under the garb of "grave and sudden provocation" to escape severe punishment. The practice of Summary-killing of a woman suspected of an illicit relationship, known as 'Karo Kari' in Sindh and Balochistan, is known to occur in all parts of the country. Kari's (the females suspected of illicit relationships) remain dishonored even after death. Their bodies are thrown in rivers or buried in special hidden Kari graveyards. Nobody mourns for them or honors their memory by performing their relevant rights. Karo's (the males suspected of illicit relationships) by contrast are reportedly buried in the communal graveyards. The promise made by the country's Chief Executive in April 2000, that all 'honor' killings would be treated as murders has yet to be converted into anything nearing reality. Women who report rape or sexual harassment encounter a series of obstacles. These include not only the police, who resist filing their claims and misreport their statements but also the medico-legal doctors, who focus more on their virginity status and lack the training and expertise to conduct adequate examinations. Furthermore, women who file charges open themselves up to the possibility of being prosecuted for illicit sex if they fail to 'prove' rape under the 1979 Hudood Ordinance which criminalizes adultery and fornication. As a result, when women victims of violence resort to the judicial system for redress, they are more likely to find further abuse and victimization. As far as domestic violence is concerned, it is the most under-reported crime because it is generally condoned by social customs and considered as a private family matter. The two main kinds of violence discussed normally are domestic violence, including burnings and disfiguring bodies by acid and ritual honor-killings. It also pinpoints the double standards of our police as majority of the women are put behind the bars under the Zina Ordinance.

Mistreatment of women and girls—including rape, domestic violence, and forced marriage— remains a serious problem. Public intimidation of, and threats to, women and girls by religious extremists increased in major cities in 2011.

In a disappointing development, the government failed to honor its commitment to reintroduce the Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Bill, unanimously passed by the National Assembly in August 2009, but lapsed after the Senate failed to pass it within three months as required under Pakistan's constitution. In April the Supreme Court upheld a 2005 ruling by the provincial Lahore High Court acquitting five of the six men accused of the gang-rape of Mukhtar Mai, a villager from Muzaffargarh district in Punjab province, who was raped on the orders of a village council in 2002.

Few Examples of Violence: although if we try to get the examples out of Violence and discrimination against women in Pakistan only. It will become a never ending affair, as there is a long long list of reported and unreported cases of Torture, violence and Discrimination against women, however there are a few examples of such cases that are listed below.

* March 31, 2003 **-** A Christian girl, 10-year-old Natasha Emmanuel, was lured into a Muslim neighbour’s home and brutally raped. It was reported that the neighbour had grown angry about the US-led war in Iraq and decided to exact punishment from a Christian.
* April 26, 2003 **-** Razia Masih, a 9-year-old Christian girl, was dumped off at her brother's house after suffering torture and sexual abuse at the hands of her Muslim employers. Razia's brother, Farooq, had attempted several times to have Razia returned home after he learned of the abuse. However, the Muslim family only returned her when they became afraid she would die from the injuries they inflicted. Razia reported that the beatings took place whenever her employers watched TV footage of the war in Iraq. She was told: "We will take revenge for the American bombing of Iraqi Muslim children from you because you are a Christian and an infidel." Razia was beaten with a cricket bat, burned with an iron, slammed against a wall and sexually abused. She was hospitalized and continues to suffer mental anxiety.
* September 21, 2002 **-** A Muslim man shot and killed seven members of his family because he was distressed that his daughter and son had both married Christians. Muhammad Nawaz killed his wife, two daughters, two sons and both his son-in-law and daughter-in-law. Nawaz's wife, Kaneez Fatima, was brought up in a Christian family and converted to Islam shortly before marrying.
* May 15, 2002 **-** A judge in Feroze Wala reached a verdict in the case against six Muslim men accused of raping 8 Christian women. The judge determined that there was not sufficient evidence despite eyewitness testimony and medical reports that confirmed the rape. Three of the accused were immediately released while the other three were sentenced to two years imprisonment and a fine for possession of weapons. However, since they have already spent nearly 2 years in prison since their initial arrest, they will be released within a matter of days. The women plan to appeal to the High Court. Meanwhile, the men are making threats to take revenge against the women and their families.
* Naseem Bibi was held for committing Blasphemy in the year 2006 at Kasur when the fundamentalists were leading a protest against the Danish desecrating sketches of the prophet. They burnt the bibles and raised insulting remarks upon the Christ; Naseem Bibi at that time came in front of the mob and stopped them of insulting and desecrating Christ and Bible. She was beaten severely and the mob torn out her clothes and later persecuted her as an accused of Blasphemy. She was sent to the jail, and her family had to leave the house and had to stay in the hiding for a long time. She was released by the sessions court Kasur after 40days**.**
* Shazia Maish was raped and killed by the people in whose house she was working as maid in Lahore . Shazia was only 10years old in 2010.
* Ruqqiya bibi was also convicted for Blasphemy and is now released on bail in Kasur.
* Shamim Bibi a mother of 9months old baby girl is convicted for Blasphemy and is now in jail in Bhawalnagar in 2012
* Nisha Morris a 12years old Girl is raped by two men upon the dispute of land with the family in Narowal in 2012
* Anisa a 4years old girl was raped and mureded brutally in a village named Muridke due to unknown reasons in 2012
* Saba Masih was kidnapped and raped and was converted forcefully to Islam in Multan in 2009
* Rimsha Masih Aged 13 years persecuted and charged for Blasphemy in 2012
* Many more that cannot be counted.