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**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

Written statement* submitted by Association PANAFRICA, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[29 May 2023]

* Issued as received, in the language of submission only.



Discrimination against Christian Women in Pakistan

Christian women living in Pakistan face certain judgment criterion that precedes their reputation. A general label regarding the clothing choices of Christian females and how they are an easy target to be persuaded and invaded for various reasons and purposes. There is always a false perception in the eyes of others in society that Christian females are liable to be explored in relationships as Christian females have several liberties to exist within the environment more than Muslim women.

The Christian community faces discrimination in all aspects of life based on their religion, and the discrimination is supported by the constitution, law, and policies designed by the state. Women are the marginalized segment of society and being a minority woman is being double jeopardized.

In most cases, Christian women in Pakistan are the breadwinners in their households. They are the ones facilitating and providing for their families, and most of these Christian women are nurses. The majority of Christians belong to the poorest classes of society and include factory workers, day labourers, domestic staff, cleaners of drains and toilets... Many of them find themselves without recourse to legal support and ignored by the forces of law and order when they attempt to defend their human rights. However, for Christian women this vulnerability is even greater and more dangerous. Public reports of sexual abuse and forced marriages are increasingly numerous, and yet the real number of cases is probably even higher still.

Pakistan should declare itself as a secular state as proclaimed by the father of the nation Mohammed Ali Jinnah in 1947. It would pave the way to building a tolerant and pluralistic society.

<https://www.persecution.org/2023/03/30/on-the-ground-persecution-as-a-christian-woman-in-pakistan/>

<https://acninternational.org/young-christian-women-in-pakistan-facing-discrimination-social-exclusion-and-poverty/>