



General Assembly

Distr.: General
13 September 2021

English only

Human Rights Council

Forty-eighth session

13 September–1 October 2021

Agenda item 3

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

Written statement* submitted by Stichting Global Human Rights Defence, 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.

[22 August 2021]

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



Human Rights Issue with regards to Educational Curriculum 2020 in Pakistan

We want to draw the Council's attention towards the biases in books that have been published for the followers of only one religion. As per Article 22 (1) of the Constitution of Pakistan, 'No person attending any educational institution shall be required to receive religious instruction or take part in any religious ceremony or attend religious worship, if such instruction, ceremony or worship relates to a religion other than his own.' The teachers from the minority religions express their grievances for the safety of their beliefs and lives.

The draft of the Single National Curriculum 2020 of Pakistan violates the Constitution of Pakistan 1973, International Declaration, Conventions, Guidelines of UNESCO to name a few. The content of religious beliefs and personalities in the subject of language and social sciences can instigate the students of the majority religion and minority religion to segregation, communal disharmony, communal violence prejudices and extremism. There are many examples where religious minorities have left their education or the school for the safety of life and belief.

Parents, students and teachers of minority religions have requested the concerned authorities to address their genuine grievances in light of the Constitution of Pakistan. The Single National Curriculum 2020 was 'One Nation, One Curriculum' but now it has become 'One Religion, One Curriculum'. It has endangered religious diversity and endangered the lives and beliefs of the religious minority students and teachers who are present in Pakistan.

It is the responsibility of the State to treat all citizens equally and their fundamental human rights must be protected without any discrimination as it is guaranteed in the Constitution of Pakistan. It is the need of the hour to address the genuine grievances of the citizens of Pakistan belonging from minority religions where all citizens enjoy social, political, religious, educational and economic rights on an equal basis.

Human Rights Focus Pakistan, NGO(s) without consultative status, also share the views expressed in this statement.