

NAVIGATING THE INTERSECTION OF INTERNATIONAL POLITICS AND HUMAN RIGHTS: A CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF PAKISTAN'S COMPLIANCE AND CHALLENGES

Fazzal Abbas

Visiting Lecturer IR Institute of Humanities and Arts, Khwaja Fareed University of Engineering & Information Technology, RYK, Punjab, Pakistan

Dr. Ghulam Qasim

Visiting Assistant professor IR Institute of Humanities and Arts, Khwaja Fareed University of Engineering & Information, Technology RYK, Punjab, Pakistan
qasimmalik71@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

This study examines Pakistan's adherence to international human rights norms as well as the obstacles it encounters, providing a critical analysis of the relationship between international politics and human rights in Pakistan. The research investigates the political, socioeconomic, and cultural influences on human rights practices, as well as the historical background of human rights in Pakistan and the institutional and legal framework for their preservation. The research highlights important human rights concerns and abuses, such as freedom of speech, women's rights, minority rights, and torture, via a thorough assessment of the literature and empirical analysis. It also looks at how civil society groups function and the difficulties human rights advocates have while promoting the defense of human rights. The study concludes with policy recommendations and future research directions aimed at strengthening Pakistan's human rights framework and promoting compliance with international standards.

Keywords: Pakistan, Human Rights, International Politics, Compliance, Challenges, Legal Framework, Institutional Framework, Political Factors, Socio-Economic Factors, Cultural Influences, Civil Society, Human Rights Defenders,

INTRODUCTION

Human rights and international politics interact in a complicated and multidimensional way, especially when it comes to developing countries like Pakistan. Pakistan is obligated to abide by several human rights accords and agreements as a member of the international community. However, socioeconomic difficulties, geopolitical factors, and internal political dynamics frequently make it difficult to carry out and enforce these obligations (Kai, et. Al 2020). This essay seeks to offer a critical evaluation of Pakistan's adherence to international human rights norms, examining the fundamental issues and the wider ramifications for the nation and the global community.

This study's importance stems from its thorough analysis of the variables affecting Pakistan's adherence to human rights laws. Although there is a large corpus of literature on human rights, most of it ignores the structural and systemic reasons that underlie these challenges in favor of focusing on particular transgressions or individual cases (Babikian, 2023). The present study employs a comprehensive methodology that considers historical, legal, political, and socio-economic factors to offer a comprehensive comprehension of the obstacles Pakistan encounters in upholding global human rights standards (Igbinenikaro & Adewusi 2024). The research intends to add to the current conversation on human rights and assist in national and international policy-making by recognizing these issues and offering workable solutions.

The primary objective critically examines Pakistan's adherence to international human rights norms and the obstacles it encounters in this respect (Padía & Traxler, 2023). Among

the specific goals are:

- To analyze Pakistan's human rights movement's development and historical background.
- To assess Pakistan's compliance with international human rights agreements and treaties.
- To determine the socioeconomic, political, and cultural barriers to human rights observance.
- To evaluate how well institutional and legal systems in a country safeguard human right.
- To make policy suggestions to improve Pakistan's observance of and protection of human rights.

These objectives will guide the structure of the article, ensuring a systematic and thorough investigation of the topic.

LITERATURE REVIEW

This study's theoretical framework incorporates elements from several academic fields, such as political science, legal studies, and international relations. Three perspectives are used to analyze the relationship between human rights and international politics: constructivism, liberalism, and realism. Realism draws attention to the power relationships and geopolitical considerations that frequently shape nations' human rights policies (Sun, et. Al 2021). Liberalism places a strong emphasis on how international organizations, agreements, and standards help to ensure that human rights are upheld. Constructivism is concerned with the social and cultural elements that influence nations' identities and human rights-related actions. The research attempts to offer a thorough examination of the variables impacting human rights compliance in Pakistan by integrating these theoretical views (Acharya, 2022).

A complex interaction between political events, religious influences, and colonial legacies characterizes Pakistan's historical environment for human rights. Pakistan has suffered with problems related to law and order, government, and human rights ever since it gained independence in 1947. Numerous military takeovers, protracted martial law regimes, and continuing hostilities in areas like Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have all occurred throughout the nation (Barnett, 2020). These historical occurrences have influenced how the state views human rights, frequently putting stability and security ahead of individual liberties. Analyzing the contemporary human rights issues and the state's reactions to its international human rights duties requires an understanding of this historical context (Kornprobst & Paul 2021).

Historical Context of Human Rights in Pakistan

Periods	Key Events	Impact on Human Rights
1947-1958	Post-Independence Era	Initial efforts to establish democratic institutions
1958-1971	First Military Coup and Ayyub Khan's Rule	Suppression of political dissent and curtailment of civil liberties
1971	Independence of Bangladesh	Human rights abuses during the conflict
1977-1988	Zia-ul-Haqq's Martial Law	Islamization policies and restrictions on freedoms
1988-1999	Democratic Transitions and Political Instability	Fluctuating human rights conditions

1999-2008	Musharraf's Military Regime	Mixed record with some reforms and continued rights violations
2008-Present	Democratic Governance with Ongoing Security Issues	Improvement in legislation but persistent human rights challenges

Pakistan has ratified a number of international human rights treaties, such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). Pakistan is required under these treaties to respect and defend a number of human rights, including the right to free speech, gender equality, and immunity from torture. Nonetheless, there hasn't always been constant adherence to these duties (Donnelly & Whelan 2020). This section looks at Pakistan's attempts to carry out the precise duties outlined in these treaties. It also looks at how foreign human rights monitors, including the UN Human Rights Council, assess Pakistan's human rights performance and offer suggestions for development.

Numerous recurrent themes and difficulties have been found in previous research on Pakistan's adherence to human rights. Research has brought attention to a number of concerns, including the judiciary's lack of independence, the frequency of extrajudicial murders, and the marginalization of racial and religious minorities. Nowak, (2021) states that Scholars have further highlighted the impact that military and security forces have on the development of human rights rules and procedures. Although these studies offer insightful information, they frequently ignore the larger structural and systemic problems in favor of concentrating on particular instances or areas of concern. In order to give a more thorough picture of Pakistan's human rights environment, this section critically evaluates the body of current material, pointing out any gaps and suggesting topics for more study (Art, et. Al 2023).

INTERNATIONAL POLITICS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

The global human rights regime is an all-encompassing framework of international legislation, treaties, and organizations intended to safeguard and advance human rights across the globe. The United Nations and its many agencies, including the Human Rights Council, which is in charge of enforcing and carrying out human rights laws, are essential to this system. The foundation of this regime is the idea that human rights are unalienable and universal, spanning political systems and territorial boundaries (Firth, 2020). However, member nations' political will and commitment to international rules frequently determine how successful the global human rights framework is. The regime confronts several obstacles, including as politicization, selective enforcement, and diverse state interpretations of human rights norms. These international standards offer Pakistan a framework against which the country's human rights practices can be measured and evaluated (Adler-Nissen, et. Al 2020).

Political factors are quite important when it comes to upholding human rights. The state of politics at the time has a big impact on how human rights are enforced in many nations, including Pakistan. Certain governments may place a higher priority on security and stability than on individual liberties, particularly in areas where there is political turmoil or violence. International political rivalries and alliances can also have an impact on the upholding of human rights (Gordenker, 2023). For example, nations with hostile connections can be more vulnerable to pressure and criticism from other countries about human rights abuses, while those with strategic alliances would be under less international scrutiny. In Pakistan, human rights enforcement is frequently undermined due to the military's substantial

political influence and the necessity of maintaining security in unstable areas. It is important to comprehend these political factors in order to conduct a thorough analysis of Pakistan's human rights record (Ali, 2021).

Treaties and international organizations are essential for establishing human rights norms and making governments responsible for their actions. Human rights standards are set by treaties like the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), which signatory nations like Pakistan are obligated to uphold. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) like Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International, as well as international organizations like the United Nations, keep an eye on adherence to these treaties and report on any infractions. These groups also offer forums for discussion and lobbying, which helps to increase worldwide pressure on nations to enhance their human rights policies (Ali & David 2023). However, governments' cooperation and political will are typically key factors that determine how effective these institutions are and the leverage these organizations can exert.

Human rights in Pakistan are greatly impacted by geopolitical forces. Due to its advantageous location near Afghanistan, Iran, China, India, and other countries, the nation is at the epicenter of regional and global power dynamics. Due to geopolitical concerns, human rights are frequently compromised in order to preserve security and relationships (Javed, et. Al 2021). For example, military operations in Pakistan's tribal areas have resulted in serious human rights abuses such extrajudicial murders and enforced disappearances due to the ongoing conflict in Afghanistan and the related security concerns. Furthermore, Pakistan's human rights policies are influenced by its alliances with powerful nations like China and the United States. The United States has occasionally placed conditions on its economic and military support, demanding improvements in human rights; China, on the other hand, has a policy of non-interference. Examining these geopolitical elements facilitates comprehension of the external pressures and incentives that shape Pakistan's human rights landscape (Khan, 2020).

The Global Human Rights Regime

Institution	Role	Challenges
United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)	Monitors human rights practices and provides recommendations	Selective enforcement, politicization
Amnesty International	Documents human rights violations and advocates for reforms	Limited influence without state cooperation
Human Rights Watch	Conducts research and advocacy on human rights issues	Reliance on external funding and access

PAKISTAN'S HUMAN RIGHTS LANDSCAPE

Pakistan's human rights situation is marked by a complicated interaction between ongoing issues and development. The nation has advanced in areas like press freedom, child labor regulations, and women's rights. Significant problems still exist, nevertheless, such as discrimination against racial and religious minorities, limitations on the right to free speech, and violence against women (Kakar, 2022). A number of independent bodies, statutes, and constitutional clauses make up the institutional and legal framework for the protection of human rights. Because of ingrained socio-cultural norms, resource scarcity, and political meddling, implementation of these frameworks is nevertheless uneven. Determining the areas that need immediate attention and transformation requires an understanding of Pakistan's broader human rights situation (Foot, 2020).

Gender-based violence, extrajudicial executions, enforced disappearances, and limitations on the right to free expression and assembly are some of Pakistan's most pressing human rights concerns. There is still a great deal of violence against women; reports of acid assaults, honor murders, and domestic abuse are common. Religious minorities experience violence and prejudice, especially Ahmadis, Christians, and Hindus (Sain, 2023). In an attempt to combat terrorism, the government has violated several human rights, including the use of torture and arbitrary incarceration. Press freedom is restricted by censorship and intimidation of reporters. These concerns reflect systemic, long-standing challenges that prevent every citizen from realizing their human rights. Examining these infractions sheds light on the structural issues that must be resolved in order to advance Pakistani human rights (Jamil, 2021).

The Constitution of Pakistan provides a legislative framework for the preservation of human rights, including the protections of fundamental rights like freedom of expression, equality before the law, and immunity from arbitrary arrest. In order to supervise the defense and advancement of human rights, Pakistan has also set up organizations like the Ministry of Human Rights and the National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR). Nevertheless, these organizations frequently deal with issues including inadequate budget, political meddling, and weak enforcement capabilities (Waltz, 2023). Enhancing the protection of human rights in Pakistan requires fortifying these institutions and guaranteeing their autonomy. Finding weaknesses and potential reform areas is made easier by assessing how well the institutional and legal structure functions.

Case studies of human rights abuses give specific illustrations of the difficulties Pakistan faces. The forced abduction of journalists and political activists in Balochistan is one prominent i.e., Zeenat Shahzadi instance that illustrates the government's oppressive stance toward dissent. Another instance is the abuse of blasphemy laws, which disproportionately impact religious minorities and are frequently employed as a point of contention between individuals (Allen, 2020). The story of Malala Yousafzai, who was shot by the Taliban for supporting girls' education, highlights the dangers that human rights advocates must contend with. These case studies highlight the consequences of violations of human rights in the real world and the pressing need for adequate remedies and safeguards (Möser, et. Al 2022).

Pakistan's Human Rights Landscape

Human Rights Issue	Prevalence	Legal Provisions
Gender-Based Violence	High, with frequent cases of domestic abuse and honor killings	Protection of Women Act, CEDAW
Freedom of Expression	Restricted, with censorship and journalist harassment	Article 19 of the Constitution, ICCPR
Religious Minority Discrimination	Significant, with misuse of blasphemy laws	Article 20 of the Constitution, ICCPR

COMPLIANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS STANDARDS

A number of significant international human rights treaties, such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), CEDAW, and the ICCPR, have been ratified by Pakistan. The act of ratification denotes a dedication to maintaining the values included in these agreements. Ratification by itself, meanwhile, does not ensure adherence. Pakistan has encountered both internal and external challenges in fulfilling its international responsibilities (Kretzmer. & Klein, 2021). Examining Pakistan's signing of these treaties establishes a foundation for evaluating the country's adherence to international human rights norms and the obstacles it encounters in fulfilling these obligations.

It is necessary to incorporate treaty commitments into national laws and policies in order to carry out international human rights duties. This has been an uneven and difficult process in Pakistan. For example, gender-based violence and discrimination persist even after ratifying CEDAW. Problems including limitations on the right to assemble and express oneself are impeding the implementation of the ICCPR (Biehl, et. Al 2021). This section looks at Pakistan's efforts to incorporate international human rights principles into its own legal system, as well as how successful these have been. Finding implementation gaps is essential to creating plans that improve compliance (Goodhart, 2016).

Accountability and transparency in human rights activities are contingent upon the presence of monitoring and reporting procedures. Pakistan is obligated to provide periodic reports outlining its progress in carrying out its human rights duties to international organizations including the UN Human Rights Council. These reports, nevertheless, are frequently criticized for being erroneous or incomplete (Ife, et. Al 2022). Furthermore, in order to provide opposing viewpoints and draw attention to unresolved issues, independent monitoring by NGOs and civil society groups is essential. Assessing the efficiency of these mechanisms aids in comprehending the difficulties they encounter as well as their function in encouraging adherence to human rights.

CHALLENGES TO HUMAN RIGHTS COMPLIANCE

Pakistan's adherence to human rights norms is severely hampered by institutional and political issues. Human rights are frequently neglected in favor of security considerations as a result of Pakistan's political environment's signature blending of military power with civil government. Because of the military's sway over policy-making, particularly when it comes to issues of national security, civil freedoms are restricted and human rights violations including enforced disappearances and extrajudicial murders occur (Rahman, et. Al 2021). Furthermore, the court is compromised in its ability to effectively safeguard human rights by political pressure and corruption, notwithstanding its constitutional independence. These problems are made worse by political unpredictability and frequent governmental transitions, as human rights programs frequently lack coherence and consistency. A culture of impunity is fostered by the fact that infractions frequently go unpunished due to the absence of strong institutional channels for accountability (Tomaševski, 2021).

Institutional Challenge	Impact on Human Rights
Military Influence	Prioritization of security over civil liberties
Judicial Corruption and Pressure	Compromised judicial independence and effectiveness
Political Instability	Lack of continuity in human rights initiatives

In Pakistan, socioeconomic issues pose significant obstacles to the actualization of human rights. People's capacity to assert and exercise their rights is severely restricted by poverty, illiteracy, and lack of access to essential services like healthcare and education. Economic inequality feeds into social stratification, which places marginalized groups—minorities and women in particular—at the center of institutionalized exclusion and discrimination. These problems are made worse by the gap between rural and urban regions, as rural communities frequently have poor infrastructure and no state presence (Akhmedshina, 2020). To tackle these socio-economic obstacles, all-encompassing policy measures that prioritize reducing poverty, distributing resources fairly, and improving access to healthcare and education are necessary.

Social-Economic Barriers	Impact on Human Rights
Poverty	Limits access to basic services and rights
Illiteracy	Hinders awareness and exercise of rights
Rural-Urban Divide	Unequal access to resources and opportunities

Human rights attitudes and actions in Pakistan are greatly influenced by cultural and religious traditions. International human rights norms, particularly those pertaining to gender equality and women's rights, sometimes clash with traditional patriarchal attitudes (Ibn-Mohammed, et. Al 2021). Laws and theological interpretations, including those pertaining to blasphemy, can be used as justifications for violence and discrimination against religious minorities. Because these cultural and religious influences are so ingrained in social attitudes and behaviors, they may also be a hindrance to attempts to promote human rights (Costello & Mann 2020). In order to address these issues, culturally sensitive strategies that involve local leaders and advance human rights awareness and education within religious and cultural contexts are needed.

Cultural/Religious Influence	Impact on Human Rights
Patriarchal Values	Gender inequality and discrimination against women
Religious Interpretations	Justification for discrimination against minorities
Societal Attitudes	Resistance to human rights reforms

CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF SPECIFIC HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES

Press freedom and freedom of speech are severely curtailed in Pakistan because of threats from extremist organizations, official censorship, and harassment of journalists. In addition to undermining democratic ideals, the state's control over media outlets and employment of harsh measures to stifle dissident voices further restrict public conversation (Hey, 2021). Because they cover sensitive topics including corruption, violations of human rights, and military operations, journalists and media professionals frequently risk threats, acts of violence, and even killing. This atmosphere of dread inhibits the free flow of information, which is necessary for a functioning democracy, and stifles investigative journalism.

In Pakistan, where patriarchal cultural norms and behaviors support gender-based violence and discrimination, women's rights and gender equality continue to be crucial problems. Women still confront substantial obstacles when trying to obtain work, healthcare, and education, even with legislative safeguards (Schilling-Vacaflor, 2021). Problems including forced marriages, honor murders, and domestic abuse are common, and victims receive little assistance from society and the judicial system. In order to guarantee that women may exercise their rights freely and securely, efforts to advance women's rights must consider both legal changes and sociocultural transformation.

Christians, Hindus and Ahmadis are among the religious and ethnic minorities in Pakistan who experience systematic violence and prejudice. Blasphemy laws are frequently abused to target religious minorities, resulting in long-term incarceration, false allegations, and violent mobs. Ethnic minorities face economic hardship, political marginalization, and violations of their human rights by both state and non-state actors, especially in areas like Balochistan. To tackle these problems, legislative changes that safeguard the rights of minorities and initiatives that encourage tolerance and social inclusion are needed (Suess

Schwend, 2020).

Grave human rights abuses, including as torture, extrajudicial murders, and enforced disappearances, are common in Pakistan, especially in regions devastated by conflict. These atrocities, which go unpunished, frequently involve security personnel and intelligence services. Journalists, political activists, and regular people charged with aiding terrorists or rebels are among the victims. These actions weaken the rule of law and erode public confidence in government institutions by breaking both national and international human rights norms (Randelzhofer & Tomuschat 2023). The three main areas of attention for efforts to address these abuses must be legislative reforms, victim and family assistance, and accountability.

Issue	Impact
Governmental Censorship	Limits public discourse and transparency
Harassment of Journalists	Stifles investigative journalism
Threats from Extremist Groups	Endangers journalists' lives and limits coverage
Gender-Based Violence	Perpetuates fear and inequality
Barriers to Education and Employment	Limits women's socio-economic mobility
Inadequate Legal Enforcement	Fails to protect victims and deter offenders
Blasphemy Laws	Misused to target religious minorities
Political Marginalization	Limits minority representation and rights
Economic Deprivation	Exacerbates social inequalities
Torture	Violates human dignity and legal protections
Extrajudicial Killings	Undermines rule of law and justice
Enforced Disappearances	Causes suffering for victims' families and communities

ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

In Pakistan, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are essential in promoting human rights. They take part in a number of different activities, including as recording abuses of human rights, offering legal assistance, spreading awareness, and advocating for changes to policies (Ali, 2021). Organizations that help victims and bring attention to abuses include the Aurat Foundation and the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP). These groups frequently work in difficult environments with budget constraints, security risks, and government restrictions. Notwithstanding these obstacles, NGOs have played a significant role in raising awareness of human rights concerns on a national and worldwide level (Amadasun, 2020).

Pakistani human rights advocates confront several difficulties, including as social reaction, legal persecution, and threats to their personal safety. When state and non-state actors try to quell dissent, activists and NGO employees are frequently the targets of violence and intimidation. The judicial system is likewise unfriendly, with legislation like the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act being utilized to suppress free speech and action (Završnik, 2020). Furthermore, conservative cultural and religious views stand in the way of progressive human rights goals. These difficulties demonstrate the necessity for more robust safeguards and assistance programs for human rights advocates.

Case studies of NGO initiatives provide concrete examples of the impact of civil society efforts on human rights. One notable initiative is the work of the Edhi Foundation,

which provides critical social services such as emergency medical care, orphanages, and shelters for women. Another example is the Acid Survivors Foundation, which supports victims of acid attacks through medical care.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

Improving the protection of human rights in Pakistan requires fortifying the country's institutional and legal structures. This entails extensive revisions to guarantee that legislation complies with international human rights norms and that strong, impartial enforcement mechanisms are in place (Moeckli, et. Al 2022). The judicial system, law enforcement, and human rights commissions are important areas that require improvement. For the judiciary to maintain the rule of law impartially, it has to be given authority and shielded from political influences. For law enforcement organizations to carry out their responsibilities without violating human rights, they require resources and training (Rodrigues, 2020). Furthermore, more authority and funding should be provided to human rights commissions so they may look into abuses and support victims. These changes would guarantee justice and accountability for all citizens while also improving the climate for the protection of human rights (Tomaševski, 2021).

Institution	Current Capacity	Enhancement Measures
Judiciary	Political pressure, corruption	Ensure independence, enhance training
Law Enforcement	Human rights abuses, lack of resources	Provide training, improve accountability
Human Rights Commissions	Limited autonomy, insufficient resources	Increase autonomy, enhance funding

For legislation to be implemented and enforced effectively, human rights protection agencies must be strengthened in terms of ability and resources. To increase their comprehension of human rights challenges and best practices, law enforcement, judges, and human rights activists should be funded for training programs. Furthermore, human rights organizations will be able to function more effectively and efficiently if they receive greater financial and logistical assistance (Bueno & Bright 2020). To enhance these institutions' responsiveness and impact, dedicated units addressing particular human rights issues—like gender-based violence and minority rights—should be established. To handle violations in a timely and thorough manner, a human rights infrastructure that is capable and well-resourced is required (Kopnina, 2020).

Institutions	Current Capacity	Enhancement Measures
Law Enforcement	Limited training, resource constraints	Implement specialized training programs
Judiciary	Overburdened, limited expertise	Increase staffing, provide continuous education
Human Rights Institutions	Underfunded, understaffed	Boost funding, expand workforce

In order to create a culture of respect and protection for human rights at all societal levels, it is imperative that human rights education and awareness be promoted. Human rights education included into school curriculum can aid in instilling these ideals in students from

an early age (Cole, 2022). Public awareness initiatives, such as outreach to the media and community seminars, may inform people about their rights and the safeguards that are in place to protect them. To make sure that marginalized groups—like women, minorities, and rural communities—are aware and equipped to stand up for their rights, special attention needs to be paid to them. Government employees and law enforcement officers should also be the focus of education and awareness campaigns to make them more aware of human rights concerns and their responsibility to protect these rights.

Target Group	Current Awareness Level	Promotional Measures
General Public	Limited awareness, especially in rural areas	Media campaigns, community workshops
School Children	Inadequate human rights education	Integrate into curricula, interactive programs
Government Officials	Insufficient training on human rights	Specialized training sessions, workshops

CONCLUSION

This research has conducted a critical analysis of Pakistan's human rights situation in relation to international politics, pointing out both potential and obstacles for reform. Important conclusions show that socioeconomic inequality, military might, and political unpredictability all seriously hinder adherence to human rights. Attempts to bring national practices into compliance with international human rights standards are made more difficult by cultural and religious conventions. Pakistan has ratified important international treaties, but their implementation is hindered by weak institutional and legal frameworks, a lack of funding, and widespread impunity for treaty violations. There are ways to go forward, though, especially if legal institutions are strengthened, capacity is increased, education is encouraged, and international processes are involved.

The study's conclusions have a number of ramifications for practice and policy. To ensure effective enforcement of national laws and to bring them into compliance with international human rights norms, policymakers must give priority to comprehensive legislative and institutional changes. Addressing the existing gaps in protection and enforcement requires increasing investment in human rights organizations and capacity-building programs. In order to promote a culture of respect for human rights and give citizens the confidence to stand up for their rights, public education and awareness campaigns are essential. Participating more actively in regional and global human rights mechanisms can improve accountability and offer vital assistance for domestic initiatives. All of these actions will help Pakistan build a stronger human rights system.

Future research should focus on in-depth case studies of human rights violations to understand the underlying causes and develop targeted interventions. Longitudinal studies examining the impact of legal and institutional reforms on human rights practices in Pakistan would provide valuable insights into the effectiveness of various strategies. Comparative analyses with other countries in the region can help identify best practices and innovative approaches to common challenges. Additionally, exploring the role of digital technologies in promoting and protecting human rights offers a promising area for research, particularly in enhancing transparency, accountability, and citizen participation. Such research will contribute to a deeper understanding and more effective promotion of human rights in Pakistan.

REFERENCES

- Kai, S., Wang, B., Chen, D., Hao, J., Zhang, H. and Liu, W., 2020, October. A multi-task reinforcement learning approach for navigating unsignalized intersections. In *2020 IEEE Intelligent Vehicles Symposium (IV)* (pp. 1583-1588). IEEE.
- Babikian, J., 2023. Beyond Borders: International Law and Global Governance in the Digital Age. *Journal of Accounting & Business Archive Review*, 1(1), pp.1-12.
- Igbinenikaro, E. and Adewusi, A.O., 2024. Navigating the legal complexities of artificial intelligence in global trade agreements. *International Journal of Applied Research in Social Sciences*, 6(4), pp.488-505.
- Padía, L.B. and Traxler, R.E., 2023. Traerás tus documentos (you will bring your documents): Navigating the intersections of disability and citizenship status in special education. In *Enacting Disability Critical Race Theory* (pp. 91-106). Routledge.
- Sun, P., Doh, J.P., Rajwani, T. and Siegel, D., 2021. Navigating cross-border institutional complexity: A review and assessment of multinational nonmarket strategy research. *Journal of International Business Studies*, 52(9), pp.1818-1853.
- Acharya, A., 2022. Race and racism in the founding of the modern world order. *International Affairs*, 98(1), pp.23-43.
- Barnett, J., 2020. Global environmental change II: Political economies of vulnerability to climate change. *Progress in Human Geography*, 44(6), pp.1172-1184.
- Kornprobst, M. and Paul, T.V., 2021. Globalization, deglobalization and the liberal international order. *International Affairs*, 97(5), pp.1305-1316.
- Donnelly, J. and Whelan, D.J., 2020. *International human rights*. Routledge.
- Nowak, M., 2021. *Introduction to the international human rights regime* (Vol. 14). Brill.
- Art, R.J., Crawford, T.W. and Jervis, R. eds., 2023. *International politics: enduring concepts and contemporary issues*. Rowman & Littlefield.
- Firth, S., 2020. *Australia in international politics: an introduction to Australian foreign policy*. Routledge.
- Adler-Nissen, R., Andersen, K.E. and Hansen, L., 2020. Images, emotions, and international politics: The death of Alan Kurdi. *Review of International Studies*, 46(1), pp.75-95.
- Gordenker, L., 2023. *Refugees in international politics*. Routledge.
- Ali, S.S., 2021. *Gender and human rights in Islam and international law: equal before Allah, unequal before man?*. Brill.
- Ali, A. and David, M.K., 2023. Investigating the Clash of Discourses on Linguistic Human Rights: Focus on the Private Schools in Sindh, Pakistan. *Forma y Función*, 36(2).
- Javed, K., Jianxin, L. and Khan, A., 2021. Constitutional exceptions of right to speech: Evidence from the apex courts of Pakistan. *Journal of Humanities, Social and Management Sciences (JHSMS)*, 2(1), pp.72-84.
- Khan, S.A., 2020. Guru-chela relationship in the khwajasira culture of Pakistan: Uncovering the dynamics of power and hegemony within. *Pakistan Journal of Women's Studies= Alam-e-Niswan= Alam-i Nisvan*, 27(1), pp.103-127.
- Kakar, M.S., 2022. Dissecting the Asia Bibi Case: A Critical Analysis of Blasphemy Law in Pakistan. *J. Int'l L. Islamic L.*, 18, p.66. Kakar, M.S., 2022. Dissecting the Asia Bibi Case: A Critical Analysis of Blasphemy Law in Pakistan. *J. Int'l L. Islamic L.*, 18, p.66.
- Foot, R., 2020. *Human rights and counter-terrorism in America's Asia policy*. Routledge.
- Sain, Z.H., 2023. Revitalizing Education in Pakistan: Challenges and Recommendations. *International Journal of Higher Education Management*, 9(2).
- Jamil, S., 2021. The rise of digital authoritarianism: Evolving threats to media and Internet freedoms in Pakistan. *World of Media-Russian Journal of Journalism and Media Studies*, 3, pp.5-33.
- Waltz, S.E., 2023. *Human rights and reform: Changing the Face of North African politics*. Univ of California Press.
- Allen, L., 2020. *The rise and fall of human rights: Cynicism and politics in occupied Palestine*. Stanford University Press.

- Möser, C., Ramme, J. and Takács, J. eds., 2022. *Paradoxical right-wing sexual politics in Europe*. London: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Kretzmer, D. and Klein, E. eds., 2021. *The concept of human dignity in human rights discourse*. Brill.
- Biehl, J., Prates, L.E. and Amon, J.J., 2021. Supreme Court v. Necropolitics: the chaotic judicialization of COVID-19 in Brazil. *Health and Human Rights*, 23(1), p.151.
- Goodhart, M.E. ed., 2016. *Human rights: politics and practice*. Oxford university press.
- Ife, J., Soldatić, K. and Briskman, L., 2022. *Human rights and social work*. Cambridge University Press.
- Rahman, M., Ahmed, R., Moitra, M., Damschroder, L., Brownson, R., Chorpita, B., Idele, P., Gohar, F., Huang, K.Y., Saxena, S. and Lai, J., 2021. Mental distress and human rights violations during COVID-19: a rapid review of the evidence informing rights, mental health needs, and public policy around vulnerable populations. *Frontiers in psychiatry*, 11, p.603875.
- Tomaševski, K., 2021. *Responding to human rights violations, 1946-1999* (Vol. 63). Brill.
- Akhmedshina, F., 2020. Violence against women: a form of discrimination and human rights violations. *Mental Enlightenment Scientific-Methodological Journal*, pp.13-23.
- Costello, C. and Mann, I., 2020. Border justice: migration and accountability for human rights violations. *German Law Journal*, 21(3), pp.311-334.
- Hey, H., 2021. *Gross human rights violations: A search for causes: A study of Guatemala and Costa Rica* (Vol. 43). BRILL.
- Schilling-Vacaflor, A., 2021. Putting the French duty of vigilance law in context: towards corporate accountability for human rights violations in the global South?. *Human Rights Review*, 22(1), pp.109-127.
- Suess Schwend, A., 2020. Trans health care from a depathologization and human rights perspective. *Public Health Reviews*, 41(1), p.3.
- Randelzhofer, A. and Tomuschat, C. eds., 2023. *State Responsibility and the Individual: Reparation in Instances of Grave Violations of Human Rights*. BRILL.
- Amadasun, S., 2020. COVID-19 palaver: Ending rights violations of vulnerable groups in Africa. *World Development*, 134(1), pp.1-2.
- Završnik, A., 2020, March. Criminal justice, artificial intelligence systems, and human rights. In *ERA forum* (Vol. 20, No. 4, pp. 567-583). Berlin/Heidelberg: Springer Berlin Heidelberg.
- Moeckli, D., Shah, S., Sivakumaran, S. and Harris, D.J. eds., 2022. *International human rights law*. Oxford University Press.
- Rodrigues, R., 2020. Legal and human rights issues of AI: Gaps, challenges and vulnerabilities. *Journal of Responsible Technology*, 4, p.100005.
- Bueno, N. and Bright, C., 2020. Implementing human rights due diligence through corporate civil liability. *International & Comparative Law Quarterly*, 69(4), pp.789-818.
- Cole, M. ed., 2022. *Education, equality and human rights: issues of gender, 'race', sexuality, disability and social class*. Taylor & Francis.
- Kopnina, H., 2020. Education for the future? Critical evaluation of education for sustainable development goals. *The Journal of Environmental Education*, 51(4), pp.280-291.
- Ibn-Mohammed, T., Mustapha, K.B., Godsell, J., Adamu, Z., Babatunde, K.A., Akintade, D.D., Acquaye, A., Fujii, H., Ndiaye, M.M., Yamoah, F.A. and Koh, S.C.L., 2021. A critical analysis of the impacts of COVID-19 on the global economy and ecosystems and opportunities for circular economy strategies. *Resources, Conservation and Recycling*, 164, p.105169.
- Ali, S.S., 2021. *Gender and human rights in Islam and international law: equal before Allah, unequal before man?*. Brill.