



**RAPED.
ABUSED.
CONVERTED.
MARRIED OFF.**

How much longer
before we take action?



INSIGHT UK
-SOCIAL MOVEMENT OF BRITISH HINDUS & INDIANS-

Leylan Kohli, 12 years old. Pooja Kumari, 13 years old. Rinkle Kumari, 19 years old. Ravita Meghwar, 16 years old

ADDRESSING FORCED CONVERSION OF HINDU MINORITIES TO ISLAM IN PAKISTAN

More than 20% in 1947, in 2017 Hindus were estimated to be around 2%, of Pakistan's population, according to census data, with most of them living in Sindh Province.

ABC reports estimate that as many as 1,000 girls and young women may be forcibly converted each year, primarily from Pakistan's Hindu community. Most of these cases are centred on the Dargah Bharchundi Sharif seminary, where Mian Abdul Haq, also known as Mian Mithoo, runs a 'forced conversion factory', as described by Daud Khattak. Radio Mashaal shows that the seminary does bear the hallmarks of a "conversion factory," with girls and young women vanishing from their homes, marrying and converting virtually overnight, and kept away from their family -- often by court order and with the backing of Mithoo.

The groups most affected by this issue are pre-adolescent Hindu, Sikh, and Christian girls. Many of these girls are violently abducted from their homes, forced to accept Islam and thrown into abusive marriages with older men, and finally blackmailed into giving a statement of consent over video. Fake documentation such as birth certificates is produced to falsely show they are consenting adults to the marriage and conversion. They are not allowed to see their families again and very few escape and live to tell their stories.

Child marriage, forced conversion, abduction, and sexual violence violate an individual's human rights and eliminate any sense of control they may have over their own life and decisions. The effects of these horrific actions traumatize each victim, hindering their ability to foster positive relationships, pursue their goals, and live a fulfilling life. At INSIGHT UK, we imagine a world where every little girl, regardless of their faith, can live up to her full potential.

- INSIGHT UK Team

LEARN MORE : <https://insightuk.org/pakistani-hindus>

ABOUT INSIGHT UK

INSIGHT UK is a social movement of British Hindu and Indian (BHI) communities. We work on the issues affecting BHI communities through awareness, advocacy and campaign. INSIGHT UK has a strong grass root presence in more than 100 towns or cities of the United Kingdom and we are growing fast.

We have worked and are working on various issues like serious lapses in Religious Education in the UK Schools for Hinduism, Hinduphobia at Oxford University, Plight of Pakistani Hindus and many more.

Each year, over 1,000 young Pakistani girls of minority religions are forcibly converted to Islam and thrown into abusive and vicious marriages with significantly older men.

Hindus, Christians, Sikhs, Jains, and Buddhists living in Pakistan as minorities face lives of pure hell on a daily basis. INSIGHT UK is committed to spreading awareness of the atrocities and brutality that young girls in Pakistan face daily.

Based on conservative estimates by The Movement of Solidarity and Peace, 1,000 girls from religious minorities are forced to convert to Islam, largely paving the way for non-consensual marriages of minors in Sindh, Pakistan. Human rights activists say the practice has accelerated during the coronavirus lockdowns when girls are out of school and more visible, bride traffickers are more active on the Internet, and families are finding themselves in greater debt.

In December 2020, the U.S. State Department declared Pakistan “a country of particular concern” for severe violations of religious freedoms. The declaration was based in part on an appraisal by the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) that underage girls in the minority Hindu, Christian, and Sikh communities were “kidnapped for forced conversion to Islam... forcibly married and subjected to rape.”

With combined efforts and enough noise, we can help save the innocent lives of thousands of young girls in Pakistan.



THE FACTS

FORCED CONVERSION IN PAKISTAN

Religious minorities suffer from rampant discrimination and remain disenfranchised in society. They are largely excluded from the political system in Pakistan and remain severely underrepresented in all spheres of mainstream life. Hindus, Christians, Sikhs, Jains, and Buddhists living in Pakistan face lives of pure hell on a daily basis.

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SINDH, PAKISTAN

The province where abduction and forced conversion of young girls are rampant in society. Sindh was once a province of India and became a part of Pakistan after the partition of 1947.

1,000

Pakistani girls are forcibly converted to Islam each year, after being abducted. A majority of these cases contain non-consensual marriages of minors.



3.6%

The population of religious minorities in Pakistan. Out of the nation's 220 million people, there are a few minority groups that practice Hinduism, Christianity, Sikhism, Jainism, and Buddhism.

THE VICTIMS

ॐ Hindus † Christians

✋ Jains ☞ Sikhs

🌀 Buddhists

WHAT CAN I DO?

REACH OUT to people around you, and speak to your fellow Hindu friends, peers, and colleagues about this issue.

ORGANIZE virtual or in-person meetings to discuss social media strategies, using the hashtag #StopForcedConversions.

ADVOCATE for Hindu girls in Pakistan, through sharing their stories on all forms of social media, and organizing local protests and/or petitions.

PUSH FOR CHANGE by contacting your local representatives with a message that condemns the mistreatment of Hindu girls in Pakistan.

VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Forced Conversion is accompanied by:

- Sexual Assault
- Non-consensual marriage
- Coercion and Blackmail
- Physical Abuse

Child marriage, forced conversion, abduction, and sexual violence violate an individual's human rights and eliminate any sense of control they may have over their own life and decisions. The effects of these horrific actions traumatize each victim, hindering their ability to foster positive relationships, pursue their goals, and live a fulfilling life. At INSIGHT UK, we imagine a world where every little girl, regardless of their faith, can live up to her full potential.

LEARN MORE: <https://hindupact.org/chingari/>

EXPERT OPINIONS



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~ SOCIAL MOVEMENT OF BRITISH HINDUS & INDIANS ~

"It's hundreds, hundreds, many girls, many girls. This crime is committed by many people, and the authorities don't do anything".

(Bishop Victor Azariah, National Council of Churches in Pakistan)

The U.S. State Department declared Pakistan “a country of particular concern” for violations of religious freedoms — a designation the Pakistani government rejects. The declaration was based in part on an appraisal by the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom that underage girls in the minority Hindu, Christian, and Sikh communities were “kidnapped for forced conversion to Islam... forcibly married and subjected to rape.”

(U.S. Department of State 2018 Report on International Religious Freedom: Pakistan)

“Before the age of 18, one is considered a child and how could a child be making big decisions such as changing his or her religion or finding a life partner? Why can’t these children be allowed to enjoy their childhood?”

(Dawn Mahnaz Rehman, Aurat Foundation)

“These Hindus living in Pakistan are the indigenous people of our country. Please respect them and accept them for who they are. There is no need to forcibly change them,”

(Zehra Khan, home-based women workers federation)

“There is a systematic pattern in most cases. The victim is sexually, psychologically, and physically harassed as well as brainwashed for at least two weeks after abduction. The conversion certificates for targeted girls are prepared in advance. Mistakes like the incorrect father’s name are ignored,”

(Chaman Lal, chief executive of Samaj Sewa Foundation Pakistan)

“Overall, religious minorities do not feel safe in Pakistan,” “But poor Hindus are the most vulnerable among them. They are extremely poor and illiterate, and Muslim mosques, charities and traders exploit them easily and lure them to convert to Islam.

A lot of money is involved in it.””

(Lal Chand Mahli, a Pakistani Hindu lawmaker)

LEARN MORE : <https://insightuk.org/pakistani-hindus>

RECOMMENDATIONS



1. **Implement Conditions on funding** allocated from the UK government to give in foreign aid to the state of Pakistan.

2. **Commission an official report** every six months documenting the socio-economic state of Hindu, Christian, Sikh, Jewish, and other minority communities in Pakistan.

3. **Provide Safe Havens** for minorities in Pakistan who have fallen victims to forced conversion, kidnapping, marriage, and religious persecution.

4. Allow victims of religious persecution in Pakistan to **access expedited citizenship** in Safe Haven countries such as the United Kingdom and India.

5. To provide victims and their families with government-allocated support, **call on**

- the UK's Foreign Secretary
- Prime Minister's Special Envoy for Freedom of Religion or Belief
- Prime Minister's Special Representative on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict and Minister of State (Minister for South Asia and the Commonwealth)

REFERENCE LINKS



INSIGHT UK
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ABC NEWS: 1,000 pakistani girls converted to islam

<https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/year-1000-pakistani-girls-forcibly-converted-islam-74930532>

No Going Back: Pakistani Hindus 'Forced' To Convert To Islam

<https://gandhara.rferl.org/a/31207991.html>

BBC NEWS: Abducted, shackled and forced to marry at 12

<https://www.bbc.com/news/stories-56337182>

DAWN NEWS: Protest against 'forced' conversion of Hindu girls

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1471638/protest-against-forced-conversion-of-hindu-girls>



**ABDUCTED.
KIDNAPPED.
ASSAULTED.**
**HOW MUCH MORE SUFFERING
UNTIL WE TAKE ACTION?**

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**AWARENESS
ADVOCACY
CAMPAIGN**

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