

41st SESSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Remarks by Pakistan for Clustered Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, and Special Rapporteur on Trafficking

27 June 2019

Mr. President,

We thank both the Special Rapporteurs for their insightful reports and presentations.

We appreciate reflection of the Special Rapporteur (SR) on Violence against Women on the new and persisting challenges faced by the global women's rights movement. Pakistan is cognizant of its responsibilities to protect and uphold the rights of women, to be free from violence through various laws and policies.

In addition to laws against Anti-Women Practices, and establishment of Women Police Stations and Women Complaint Centers in the existing police stations in various districts, Pakistan also adopted Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act (2012). A Gender Crime Cell (GCC) was also established within the National Police Bureau (part of the Federal Ministry of Interior) in April 2006 to gather, collate and analyse data of cases of violence against women.

All cases of violence against women are taken seriously by the government and necessary action is taken. Investigation Commission are formed when necessary under strict monitoring of high officials. Due to free and vibrant media, reporting of such incidents has increased, which has led to timely and punitive action against perpetrators of violence against women.

Mr. President,

We concur with Special Rapporteur on Trafficking that besides stigma, migrants, who are victims of trafficking, also face xenophobia, intolerance and intersectional discrimination. We also agree that it is important to ensure social inclusion of trafficked persons. Pakistan is also working at regional as well as national level to combat human trafficking. We are signatory of SAARC Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution. Domestically, Pakistan's Parliament passed Trafficking Act 2018 to complement Prevention and Control of Human Trafficking Ordinance, 2002 to beat the menace of trafficking in all its forms

and manifestations. In addition, a wide range of policy, legal, administrative and technical measures are also underway.

We request the Special Rapporteur to give due regard to the necessity of increasing and facilitating legal channels of migration to ensure complete eradication of this menace, in her future work.

I thank you.
