

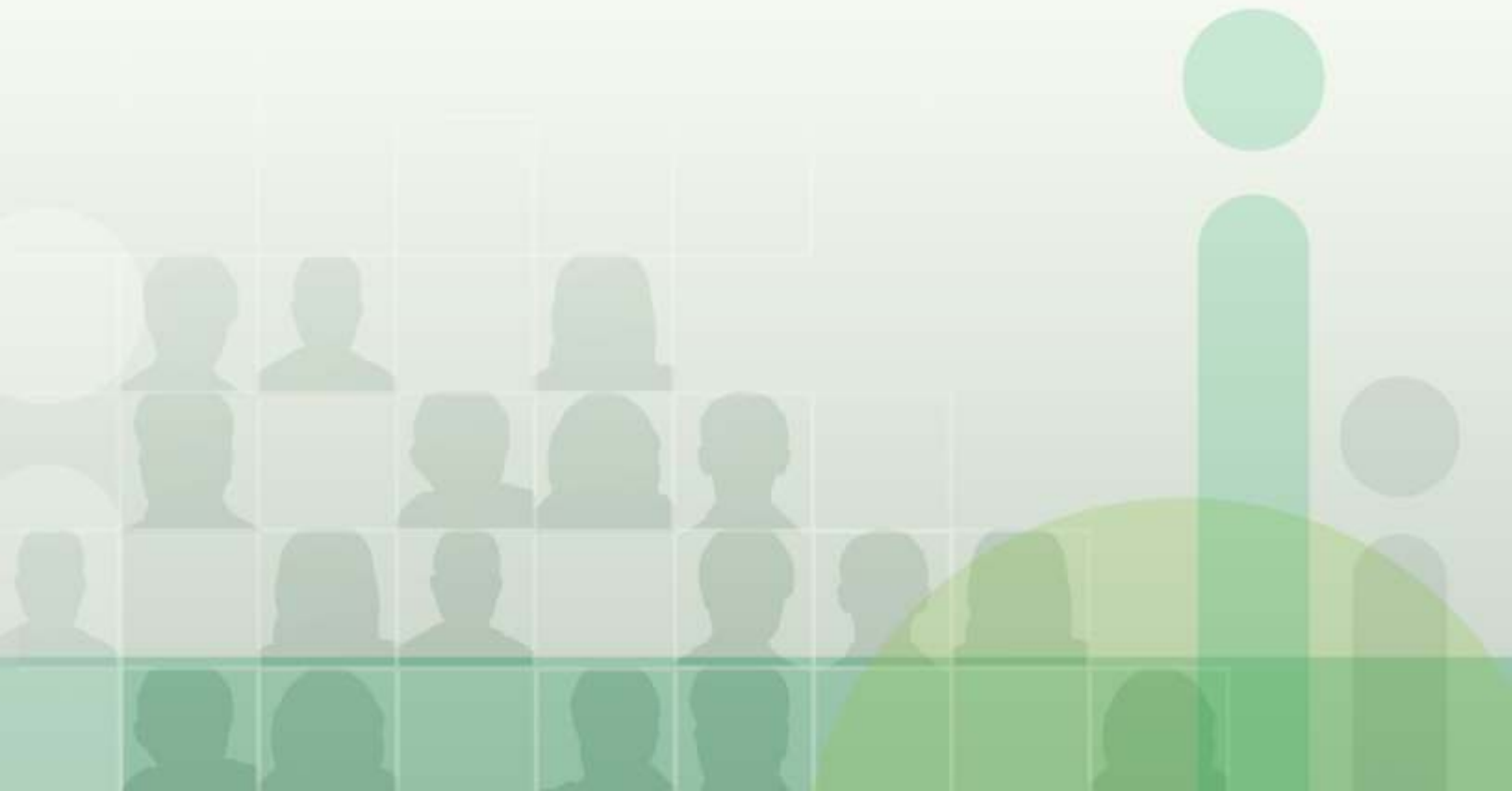
Punjab Youth Parliamentary Caucus (PYPC)

Progress Report
(May 2014 - Dec 2015)



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Punjab Youth Parliamentary Caucus (PYPC): Activity Report (May 2014 – Dec 2015)

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Special gratitude goes to founding office bearers and executive members of the PYPC who pioneered and made this august body a success: Patron, Parliamentary Secretary Chaudhry Sarfraz Afzal (PP-6, Rawalpindi-VI); Chairperson, Mr. Sardar Vickas Hassan Mokal, PML-Q (PP-180, Kasur-VI); Vice Chairperson, Ms. Mary Gill, PML-N (W-334); Secretary, Mr. Mian Irfan Daultana, PML-N (PP-234, Vehari-III); and Treasurer, Ms. Nabila Hakim Ali Khan, PTI (W-358);

Members of the Executive Committee, MPAs Mr. Hashim Jawan Bakht, PML-N (PP-291, Rahimyar Khan-VII); Mr. Umer Jafar, PML-N (PP-293, Rahimyar Khan-IX); Ms. Farah Manzoor Baloch, PML-N (W-328); Ms. Irum Hassan Bajwa, PML-N (W-344); Mr. Rafaqat Hussain Chaudhry, PML-N (PP-102, Gujranwala-XII), Mr. Ehsan Riaz Fatyana, Independent Candidate (PP-58, Faisalabad-VIII), Mr. Haji Imran Zafar, PML-N (PP-III, Gujrat-IV), Mr. Mannan Khan, PML-N (PP-134, Narowal-III), Mr. Asif Mehmood, PTI (PP-9, Rawalpindi-IX), Ms. Faiza Ahmed Malik, PPP (MPA W-362) and Mr. Ramesh Singh Arora, PML-N (NM-368); and all members who contributed to this pioneering forum for youth empowerment in Punjab.

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Final acknowledgements are reserved for the following contributors of the PYPC secretariat at Bargad: Usman Akhtar (PYPC coordinator), Saiqa Rani, Noor Imran and Sheheryar Shahid.



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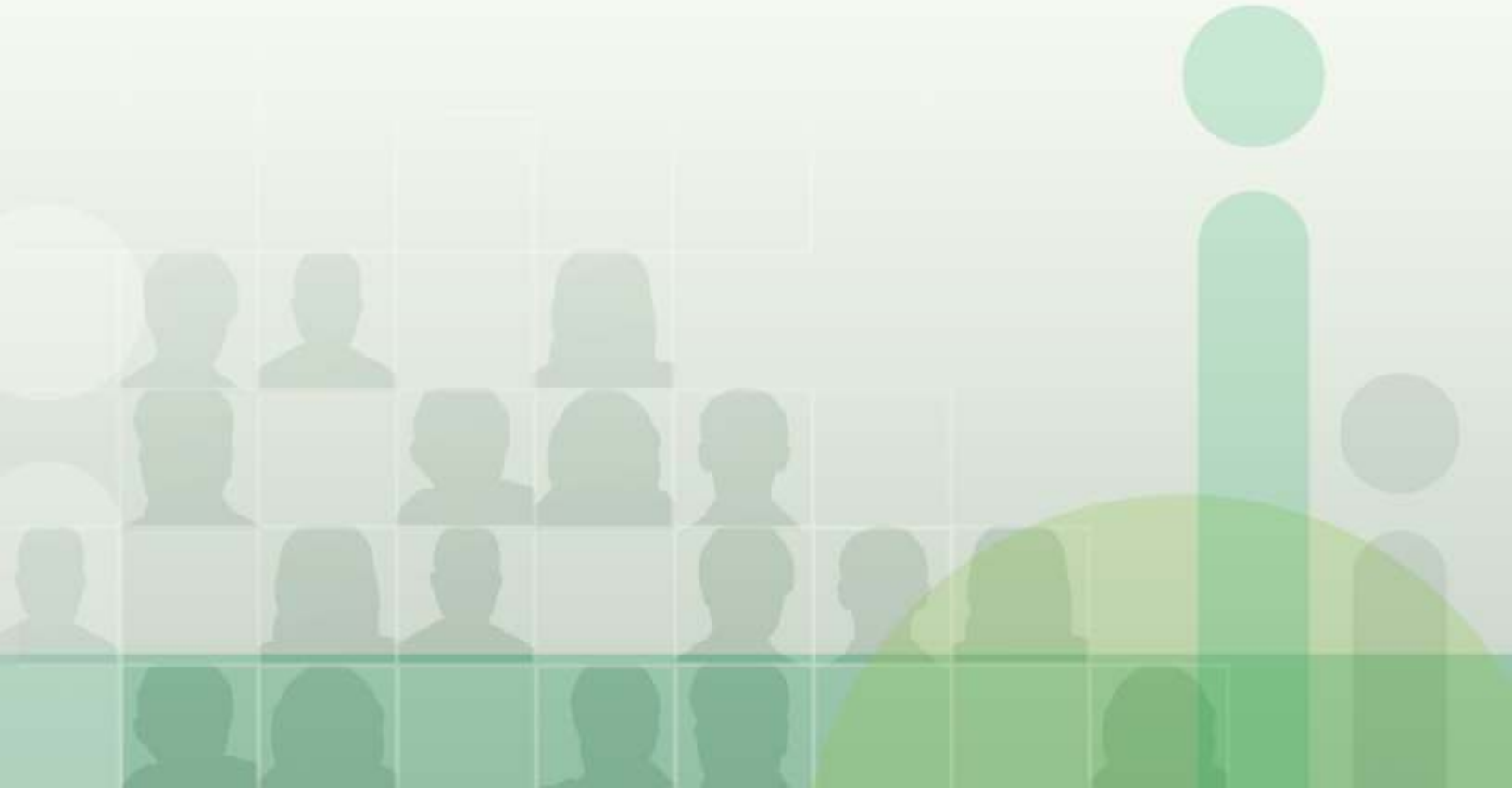
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Note from Speaker Punjab Assembly:



Punjab Youth Parliamentary Caucus (PYPC) is a first of its kind forum for collaboration between young members of Punjab Assembly across all parties on matters of youth and adolescence. Formulation of the Caucus is tantamount to bringing youth issues to the assembly floor for legislative purposes. Punjab Youth Parliamentary Caucus successfully streamlined the efforts of our young Members of Punjab Assembly towards youth related issues by giving it structure. I wish to see similar progress in the future as well.

Speaker Punjab Assembly, Rana Muhammad Iqbal

Government of the Punjab



Note from the Chief Patron:

Throughout the world multiple forms of Caucuses, forums and committees exist in elected assemblies to highlight and focus important issues. Our worthy Chief Minister, Mian Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif's vision is to make use of the best practices of the world to bring Punjab Assembly at par with international standards. With that in mind, the Punjab Youth Parliamentary Caucus (PYPC) was created so that youth-related issues might be emphasized within floor of the Punjab Assembly.

It is heartening that young members of the Punjab Assembly have responded well to needs of the Pakistan's biggest assets in an organized way. The Caucus is a form of investment which brings youth issues on the Assembly agenda and guides legislative efforts to resolve them.

I am delighted that the Caucus was formed after rigorous deliberation and consultation with elected members of the Punjab Assembly and its office bearers and executive body of the Caucus were elected and voted for in the spirit of democracy.

I appreciate the efforts and support of Bargad, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and Heinrich Boll Stiftung (HBS) in the formulation and running of the Punjab Youth Parliamentary Caucus. I would also like to congratulate office bearers of the Caucus on its success and publishing its first progress report. The progress we have made on resolution of youth issues is authentic and I hope that this platform can achieve the goals that it aspires to. In the near future, Caucus will also include in its ambit of work: peace-building within the framework of the National Action Plan, 2015 and the Sustainable Development Goals, 2015.

The Department of Youth Affairs has also launched the Punjab Youth commission which will assist in developing a roadmap for youth development initiatives in the province of Punjab within the framework of the Punjab Youth Policy.

Minister for Education, Youth Affairs, Sports, Archeology & Tourism
Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan
Government of the Punjab

Note from the Patron:

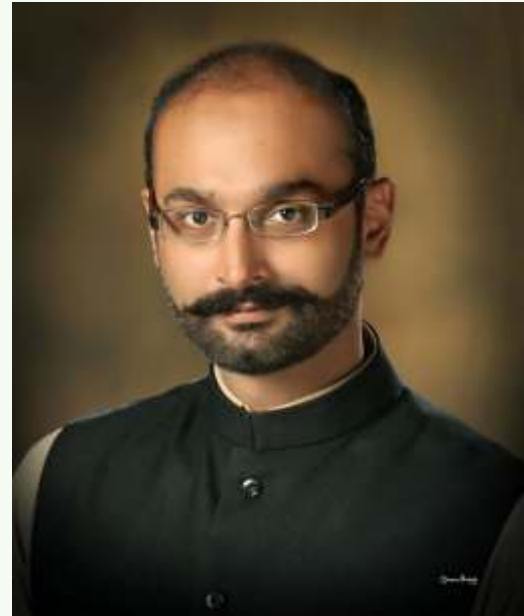


The PYPC has come a long way from its inception as we recently crossed the 18 month's milestone. The efforts of the Caucus coordinator, Mr. Usman Akhter, Bargad and the members of the Caucus throughout the process of formulation and then working on youth related issues such as the Early Child Marriage Bill and minority rights cannot be undermined. These struggles would not have borne any fruit had it not been for the constant support of the international agencies, the Heinrich Boll Stiftung Foundation and the United Nations Population Fund. I would also like to congratulate these important stakeholders on the publishing of this report which documents all the activities and progress made by the PYPC over the last one and a half years.

I hope that the Caucus can continue channelizing its efforts for the youth development agenda and I look forward to support this process as an active part.

Parliamentary Secretary, Chaudhry Sarfraz Afzal
Provincial Assembly of the Punjab

Note from the Chairperson:



The Punjab Youth Parliamentary Caucus is the first of its kind. Its inception is based on the premise that debates in the assemblies and legislation are of paramount importance in resolving any issue. Given that youth is the most productive section of the society and cuts across all religious, social, economic and political boundaries it is imperative that there should be focus and emphasis on resolving issues related to the youth. Youth is our country's biggest asset as it forms a large segment of Pakistan's population. 30.6% of Pakistan's population comprises of youth (15-29 years of age). This demographical situation dictates the presence of a youth bulge that needs attention. To this end, the PYPC was created as a platform for young members of Punjab Assembly to get together and work across party lines for youth development, empowerment and youth based legislation.

I would like to thank Bargad Organization for Youth Development, the United Nations Population Fund and the Heinrich Boll Stiftung Foundation for their immense efforts and support to this forum. I would also like to recognize members of the Caucus for trusting me to be the first unopposed Chairperson of the PYPC and for their constant and sincere engagement with the Caucus and its agenda. I believe that the creation of this Caucus was only the first step to actually tackling youth issues on a concrete level and that this initiative has the capacity to create a real change by both developing legislation and assisting in implementation. Bringing issues like early child marriage and adolescence reproductive health to the assembly floor is a challenging task however, I am confident that the Caucus will deliver tangible results because of the commitment and determination of its members.

Sardar Vickas Hassan Mokhal
Member, Provincial Assembly of the Punjab

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Approval and implementation of the Punjab Youth Policy, 2012 enabled the Government of Punjab to enter into consolidating ventures for engaging youth in affairs of the province. Parliamentary and legislative is one such area where a crucial intervention has been made in the form of Punjab Youth Parliamentary Caucus (PYPC) within the Punjab Assembly. For that to happen, Bargad – Organization for Youth Development has provided technical assistance to the Youth Affairs, Sports, Archaeology & Tourism Department, Government of the Punjab with support from United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and Heinrich Boll Stiftung (HBS) to form an all-parties PYPC.

The Youth Caucus is planned to help achieve consensus for resolution of issues pertaining to the youth and it will provide a platform for youth voices to be heard in the Punjab Assembly, and through cross party mediation the youth concerns are addressed. It will also perform over-sight functions on progress of Punjab Youth Policy, 2012.

The present report compiles progress of activities under the PYPC enterprise during the period from end May 2014 to Dec 2015.

The PYPC has been initiated after an inclusionary, participatory and comprehensive consultative process across all political parties in the Punjab Assembly. Its office bearers have been elected and structures been placed after well-defined and efficient legislative drafting of its governing bylaws.

The reporting period witnessed an upsurge in expectations of young Punjab MPAs despite initially-feared risks and challenges. It was a concern that inclusion and representation of all political parties to the PYPC will be hard to ensure; as many may view this forum as pro-government due to heavy presence of the ruling party in the Assembly and hence their greater participation. It was apprehended that without representation from all parties the purpose of the Caucus will be defeated. Another challenge was that it was difficult for the young members of the Punjab Assembly to avoid affiliation with political parties, and working solely for the interest of the youth and adolescents. Competition and professional contest was a hurdle for effective work. Furthermore, there was a potential challenge of managing a voluntary body like the Caucus, whereby members might not be so willing to spare time for its general body meetings and other events of the Caucus. The historical example of tussle over forming the women Caucus (in the past) was also considered while designing the project.

Given the above, it was ensured in details that the consultative process goes ahead smoothly towards consensus building. Caucus as a driver of change was successful to keep away political affiliations of young members from this forum and a healthy working environment has resulted among members of various parties. This has been ultimately be of political advantage too - with greater understanding been developed between the members in service of youth friendly policies and programming. The clearest indication of such environment can be observed through composition of the Caucus and its office bearers. With a political party in absolute majority, no one could have imagined that a young MPA from a massively smaller party would be elected as its chairperson, but it happened after a due process of elections. Slot of Treasurer has also gone to an opposition political party, while women and minority representatives are part of its executive body in a formidable way.

PYPC's success is attributed to a well-thought out and thorough consultative process and ownership of political parties over the potential of the PYPC. Even during the consultative process, the Youth Caucus members helped the Women Caucus to get passed their resolution in the Punjab Assembly on early and forced marriages. Furthermore, the organization has constantly collaborated with different organizations and events to put forward youth agenda.

With its present pace, we hope that the Caucus will achieve its objective of youth and adolescent-friendly legislative work and

to serve as a mechanism for capacity building of MPAs on youth development. It will prove as a platform for youth concerns to be acknowledged and highlighted at the political level.

The project progress made in the reporting period is ably moving towards its expected outcomes of strengthening democracy through youth opinions, engagement and work in the Punjab Assembly. There has been a compelling need for such work; which is also providing a win-win situation for young MPAs to consolidate their youth constituencies and by decreasing their distance from bureaucracy/non-elected leadership in Punjab. The potential of the Caucus can also be observed through increase in Punjab Assembly debates over issues like Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH), early marriages, population, peacebuilding and countering violent extremism.

In the coming pages individual activities, meeting and events have been elaborated in a chronological order and provide a useful glance over the project progress.

1.BACKGROUND

Minister for Education, Youth Affairs, Archaeology and Tourism, Mr. Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan is the one responsible for conceptualizing PYPC in the Punjab Assembly. After the conception of this idea the Youth Affairs, Sports, Archeology, and Tourism Department, Government of the Punjab chose Bargad– Organization for Youth Development to provide technical assistance in the realization of this concept since Bargad has a long history of working in Pakistan on youth affairs and other issues relating to the youth of the country. This partnership then led to conceiving an all-parties Caucus within the Punjab Assembly through a rigorous process of consultation with representatives of all political parties present in the assembly.

In December 2014, the Punjab Youth Parliamentary Caucus (PYPC) was formally launched with the support of the UNFPA and the Heinrich Böll Stiftung – Pakistan (HBS).

The Caucus was conceived to fulfill the following functions:

- Consensus building and agenda setting beyond and above party lines for youth empowerment in Punjab;
- Capacity building of members of the Punjab Assembly on key youth empowerment issues;
- Legislative and practical oversight of the implementation of Punjab Youth Policy 2012 and other youth initiatives;
- Exchange of views and information sharing on critical areas both nationally and internationally; and
- Liaison and linkages with key state and civil society institutions and organizations working on youth.

1.1.Purpose

The importance of formulating and establishing such a Caucus could be seen through demographics of Pakistan, which is currently experiencing a youth bulge. The active youth in Pakistan (i.e. those that fall between the ages of 15 and 29 years) account for 30.6 percent of the country's total population. This situation creates a large window of opportunity which can either be utilized to benefit development or regression in the country, depending on how efforts towards mobilizing this group are channeled. In the current climate of extremism, both passive and violent, that Pakistan finds itself in, it is essential that youth voices are heard and youth issues addressed by elected representatives.

The PYPC addresses this need by bringing together the young members of the Punjab Assembly in service of the youth in Punjab, which is the country's largest province both in terms of population and political representation. It creates a powerful constituency into the political mainstream and provides youth with a clear avenue of influence, which is more likely to prevent them from adopting fringe narratives from groups with destructive aims and ideologies.

The initial structure of the PYPC provided a one-year timeline for the youth organizations and MPAs to formulate its structures and modalities and identify issues faced by youth and other young people in the province. This task required intensive consultation at the outset. The meetings of the Caucus also sought to address identified issues through legislative actions. In addition to this, the PYPC provided over-sight functions on the progress of the Punjab Youth Policy, 2012.

2.FIRST PHASE: INCEPTION

2.1. Inception meetings

2.1.1. 22 May, 2014:

The inception meeting for formulation of the PYPC was conducted on 22 May 2014 at Committee Room of the Punjab Assembly. Honorable Youth Minister Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan chaired it. He expressed the desire of the youth affairs department and young parliamentarians to found an all-party mechanism of young assembly members (aged under 45) for youth empowerment in the province. Its major objectives had to perform roles in consensus-building and agenda-setting, legislative, oversight and support work. He invited Bargad to provide technical and secretarial support in this regards, while appreciating its previous contribution in youth policy making has been and youth development in the country.

He said that after the Punjab Youth Policy, 2012 was approved and put to implementation phase, it was necessary that the elected members were involved to support this endeavor irrespective of the party affiliation. He said that the Caucus has to be a representative of the young members of the Punjab Assembly and not a particular political party. The present regime under leadership of the CM Shahbaz Sharif in Punjab is youth friendly and wants to pursue its youth work in inclusionary and participatory manner. He also cited models of Youth Caucuses elsewhere in the globe having their origin in British Colonies of North America. It was used in mediation, facilitation and other forms of alternate dispute resolution for private consultation. Then there were a list of USA- Congressional Caucus and party Caucuses; parliamentary Caucuses in Australia, Canada, New Zealand and South Africa and Pan-African Youth Parliamentary Caucus and similar national bodies in Africa. Pakistan Women's Parliamentarian Caucus was a good pioneering work in this regards, which also caused the formation of Young Parliamentarians Forum at the National Assembly of Pakistan. He said that the proposed Caucus will be the first ever Youth Caucus in the history of Pakistan and a guiding instrument of legislative and representative actions for youth empowerment in the province.

Executive Director, Sabiha Shaheen appreciated that the need for a Caucus came from the Punjab Assembly. She ascertained to give helping hands to the young MPAs in the Punjab Assembly for this task. She informed that the number of Punjab MPAs under the age of 45 years is 84, while this amounts to 47 under the age of 40 years.

In the end a committee was formed for getting registration of the PYPC through membership forms and it was announced that Bargad will coordinate and assist in its formulation process.

2.1.2. 12 June, 2014:

The second inception meeting for formulation of the Caucus was conducted on the 12th of June, 2014 at Faletti's Hotel in Lahore. The meeting was chaired by Honorable Youth Minister Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan. The majority of the people present were from PML (N), but PTI and PML (Q) was also represented. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the formation of the first ever Youth Caucus in Pakistan, and get an input from the participants on the proposed structure. Sabiha Shaheen discussed the function of the Youth Caucus, structure, and legal status, while the Honourable Minister opened the house for questions, and answered them. The meeting was important as it allowed for clarity among many MPAs of the reason for this initiative to be taken, and motivated many to work for the cause. It was also significant because it established the need to found a Caucus which will be as an independent body, free of political agendas.

Honorable Youth Minister Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan also announced that next meeting will be held on 13 June, 2014 at 15:00 in Committee Room C at the Punjab Assembly Hall.



2.1.3. 13 June, 2014:

The third scheduled meeting was conducted on the 13th of June, 2014 at the Punjab Assembly, Committee Room A. The meeting was chaired by Honorable Youth Minister Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan and further facilitated by Parliamentary Secretary Youth Affairs, Chaudhary Sarfraz Afzal. The agenda for the meeting was to collect information including names, contact details, and political associations with signatures of prospective members of the PYPC for future correspondence. It was decided that all Punjab Assembly members under the age of 45 years shall be notified via, written letters, phone calls, and text messages about the PYPC membership. It was also discussed that registration of bylaws shall be done through a simple resolution in the house. Furthermore, the discussion and outcomes of the previous meetings were recapped and the structure of the Executive Body (EB) of the Caucus was finalized. The EB was to consist of 13 members excluding the patron in chief and the representation of each party would be proportionate to the presence of the party in the assembly. It was also decided that the EB will be announced on 16th June, 2014 so that the Honorable Youth Minister can represent the PYPC along with the executive members in the meeting with the UN Secretary General Special Envoy for Youth on 18th June, 2014.



2.1.4. 16 June, 2014:

The fourth scheduled meeting was held on the 16th of June, 2014 at Punjab Assembly, Committee Room A. Parliamentary Secretary Youth Affairs, Chaudhary Sarfraz Afzal facilitated the meeting in absence of the Honourable Youth Minister who took leave due to health problem. The formulation and proportion of the EB was discussed during the meeting and it was decided that the Body will have a one year term, after which a new EB will be selected based on past performance. During this meeting, the first draft of the resolution was structured by the participants. It was also announced that the Caucus will meet with the UN Secretary General Special Envoy for Youth on 18th June. The priority work areas to be shared with the envoy were also discussed. Ms. Salma Butt announced that all members are invited in 18 June 2014 at 14:45 PM in Committee Room C at the Punjab Assembly Hall.

Mr. Muhammad Khurram Gulfam, MPA PML-N (PP-162 Sheikhpura-I) was a young and active member of the provincial assembly. He contributed to the formulation of the Punjab Youth Policy, 2012 and was also one of the founding members of the Punjab Youth Parliamentary Caucus. He was a part of the inception meeting of the Caucus however; he could not live to see its formation. PYPC owes a great deal to his efforts. Mr. Khurram passed away on 22nd July, 2014 succumbing to post-operative complications. May he rest in peace.



2.2. UN Secretary General's Envoy on Youth meets PYPC

United Nations Secretary General's Envoy on Youth Mr. Ahmed Alhendawi held a meeting with members of the recently formed Caucus in the Punjab Assembly on June 18, 2014. He was accompanied by United Nations Population Fund's representative in Pakistan Ms Anne Keeling, and Program Officer Sadia Atta Mehmood. The purpose of this brief meeting was to introduce the Youth Caucus to the envoy, to share its status, and for the Punjab Assembly members to give their opinions on how UNFPA could help the body achieve its aims.



United Nations Secretary General's Envoy on Youth Mr. Ahmed Alhendawi meets PYPC General Secretary, Mr. Irfan Daultana

Chaudhry Sarfaraz Afzal explained that the Caucus was a platform for young Punjab Assembly members to solve problems of the youth of Punjab despite differences in political agendas and political parties. Members of PML(N), PML(Q) and PTI were all present. He also mentioned some salient features of the Punjab Youth Policy, 2012 to explain areas of work the Caucus would be focusing most on. Lastly, Mr. Afzal explained that representation of all political parties will not only be seen in the General Body but in the Executive Body of the Youth Caucus too. One member suggested that it would be easier if they made a concrete work plan in order to focus their efforts to achieve both short and long term goals and the Caucus mutually decided to hold a planning meeting.



Patron PYPC, Parliamentary Secretary, Mr. Chaudhry Sarfraz Afzal briefing the United Nations Secretary General's Envoy on Youth Mr. Ahmed Alhendawi and United Nations Population Fund's representative in Pakistan Ms. Anne Keeling

Mr. Alhendawi stressed on the importance of tackling youth issues in the meeting with regards to the proportion of the population comprising of youth in Pakistan. He mentioned the significance of the youth policy in solving many issues, while pointing out some challenges that the body would face. He also warned of the time constraint Pakistan had to use to engage youth in meaningful activities because according to him twenty to twenty five years later the chance would diminish. Mr. Ahmed Alhendawi brought the issue of “Child Marriages” in focus too, and considered this as a crucial problem that needed attention. He also pledged support of UNFPA to the Caucus, formation of a youth policies for other provinces of Pakistan, and suggested that UNFPA could help with research and statistics on profile of the Pakistani youth.



Ms. Anne Keeling, during her address, emphasized on the need for taking a long-term view of development, and pointed out the importance of continuity in all projects of the Caucus. Measures taken today might prove insufficient if the growth in population was not taken into account while designing solutions to problems. She also stressed that the issue of child marriages was not confined to young girls not being given to exercise their rights, but it extended further to their children being born with mental illnesses and stunted mental growth. For this, she also mentioned nutrition of young girls was important and must be looked into as a matter of significance.



Speaker Punjab Assembly, Mr. Rana Muhammad Iqbal presenting a souvenir to United Nations Secretary General's Envoy on Youth Mr. Ahmed Alhendawi



Speaker Punjab Assembly, Mr. Rana Muhammad Iqbal presenting a souvenir to United Nations Population Fund's representative in Pakistan Ms. Anne Keeling

3. SECOND PHASE: FORMULATION AND ACTIONS

3.1. Work-planning

A planning session was conducted with seven members of PYPC and Sadia Atta Mehmood, UNFPA on 23rd July 2014. The purpose was to lay out a work-plan for the next five months for the body. Six important issues were addressed in the session:

Sadia Atta informed the members that their work was related to policy making and so it was important that they prioritized issues, and decided exactly what should be focus areas of their work. She volunteered to provide a bill formed on child marriages that the PYPC could take forward to the Punjab Assembly for legislative action. Sadia further pointed out the need to narrow down categories of work and said that even under health and population a pre-defined focus was necessary. She said that population's mainstream issues were poverty, health services, urbanization and migration, population development issues- rural planning, urban planning and the body could choose the issues of their interest.

A residential training was discussed by Sabiha Shaheen to be organized for the executive council and a suitable date for it. The purpose of the training was capacity building of young MPAs who were active members of the PYC.

While discussing areas of work, MPA Mian Naseer Ahmed made it clear that the organizations could seek input from the executive body, but technical assistance was necessary to take things forward. He recommended having legislation on allocation of resources for youth, and defining how they will gain access to these resources. MPA Tahia Noon said it was important to identify bodies already working on youth issues and collaborate with them.

By end of the session a concrete work plan was made:

- a) It was decided that the residential training was to be held in the first week of September;
- b) MPA Mian Naseer Ahmed agreed to take charge of notification of the Caucus with the Deputy Speaker of the Punjab Assembly;
- c) It was agreed that Bargad will develop the Caucus bylaws by end of August 2014 by;
- d) It was resolved that the Caucus would have a session every month. MPA Tahia Noon suggested that every session of the Caucus should result in a resolution passed at the end of it.
- e) On the focus of issues, it was decided to keep the Early Marriages issue aside in initial stages to avoid immediate resistance from religious groups. Issues to be focused on overall were promotion of technical education, population, youth and adolescent health (particularly of young people between 15 to 19 years) and early marriages.

3.2. Formulation, Lobbying and the PYPC actions

3.2.1. Individual meetings (Sept-Dec 2014):

In July 2014 Bargad in collaboration with Youth Affairs, Sports, Archaeology & Tourism Department, Government of the Punjab had multiple interactions and individual meetings with the MPAs. This lobby work aimed at promoting the idea and purpose of the PYPC. The objectives of these meetings were as follows:

- Help establish the PYPC that includes Punjab Assembly members under the age of 45 without all types of discrimination including gender, party affiliation, ethnic, religious etc. It is an all political parties' forum that will provide a platform for youth concerns to be acknowledged and highlighted at the highest political level in Punjab. It will also be instituted for policy continuity and will serve as a mechanism for capacity building of young assembly members;
- Lobbying for necessary legislation for youth development in Punjab;
- Ensure the effective implementation of youth related policies, rules and procedures;
- Get bills approved against “Early Marriages” and “Forced Marriages” by the Punjab Assembly; and
- Ensure office space for PYPC functions.



Left to right: General Secretary PYPC, Mr. Irfan Daultana; Programme/Technical Analyst, ASRH United Nations Population Fund-Pakistan, Ms. Sadia Atta Mehmood; Speaker Punjab Assembly, Mr. Rana Muhammad Iqbal; Executive Director Bargad, Ms. Sabiha Shaheen; Chairperson PYPC, Mr. Sardar Vickas Hassan Mokhal

During the meetings, MPAs from all political parties including Pakistan Tehrik-e-Insaf, Pakistan Muslim League (Q), and the ruling Pakistan Muslim League (N) appreciated the idea of establishing the PYPC. Smooth process was being carried out until in August, PTI announced a call for protest over alleged rigging in elections 2013. Before this call there was active participation of MPAs belonging to PTI, but after their unapproved resignations from Punjab Assembly, those MPAs turned to their organizational and protest duties. However a close network was developed with MPAs belonging to rest of the political parties including the PML (N). A total of 25 individual meetings were conducted with MPAs during Sept-Dec 2014, which had the following outcomes:

- All active and potential members for executive body of PYPC were contacted in one to one meetings;
- Honorable Provincial Minister of Youth was gracious to show his willingness to support independence to the PYPC in all its matters;
- A list of potential participants was developed for 3-day capacity building meeting;
- All the members were agreed on shared objectives of PYPC;
- Members agreed to establish sub-bodies and work accordingly;
- Dedicated logo for the PYPC was and shared with few members of PYPC;
- Tentatively the dates for 3 days training were finalized, but it all depended on resumption of the assembly sessions;
- Bylaws for the PYPC were developed and got whetted by a legal expert;
- Program of the 3 day training session was consulted. It aimed to interact with Punjab MPAs on the process of legislation, effective communication, positive media response, youth issues and challenges in Pakistan especially in Punjab, issues related to SRH and youth will be the part of the training;
- Executive body and other bodies will be formed;
- It was encouraging that no party bias and affiliation was observed during the Caucus sessions and meetings. It happened mainly due to patronage of the Provincial Minister for Youth Affairs, who is a prominent leader of the ruling political party. That's why the Caucus members were not pressed for rallying on the line of their party affiliation;
- The honorable speaker of the assembly was requested about the status of notification of the Youth Caucus;
- Speaker was requested to provide space for setting up office for the Youth Caucus within the Punjab Assembly;
- An orientation plan was prepared to brief assembly members on the process of law making; and
- It was made mandatory to ensure women representation on the PYPC Executive Body and for all its committees. However, It was decided that women who are already on executive positions in the Women Caucus will not be given executive positions in the Youth Caucus. However, other members of the Women Caucus were eligible to be on executive positions.

3.2.2. Legal/ procedural status of the PYPC within the Punjab Assembly:

Legal/ procedural status of the PYPC within the Punjab Assembly was still independent at this time. It was expected that once the internal organizational process including elections of the office bearers is completed. PYPC members will submit a resolution to the Speaker, Punjab Assembly and based on that the Assembly will notify and adopt the PYPC.

All efforts had been success so far to make the PYPC formulation process inclusionary, comprehensive and participatory. All members were well informed about the objectives and functions that PYPC will perform.

3.2.3. Formation of the Executive Committee:

A meeting was called with the PYPC to formalize an 11-member- Executive Body and fulfill legal requirements of the Caucus. In addition, an election committee consisting of three members was formed at the meeting. The election committee included MPAs Mr. Bilal Akbar Bhatti, Ms. Lubna Rehan and Mr. Naeem Ullah Gill.

List of other matters of importance that were discussed are listed below:

- a) Elections for the PYPC office bearers will take place on 5th January, 2015.
- b) Candidates contesting the elections for the Caucus positions must submit their papers by 31st December 2014. There will be a total of four positions of the office bearers: Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, General Secretary and Treasurer.
- c) Forms for election will be available online and Bargad will be responsible for making these in Urdu and English.
- d) Only those young MPAs who sign the master copy of PYPC bylaws will be eligible to become members, and cast votes for office bearers in the upcoming elections.
- e) MPA Sarfraz Afzal Chaudhry will visit the office of the Speaker Punjab Assembly on the 26th of December 2014 regarding notification of the Caucus.

Sabiha Shaheen announced that all executive members are invited in 28 June 2014 to discuss the process of executive decision making and law making in the province.



3.2.4. Briefing papers on process of executive decision making and law making in Punjab:



Two briefing papers on the “Process of Executive Decision Making in Punjab” and “Process of Law Making in Punjab On 28th December, 2014 were prepared. A meeting was conducted with the Executive Body of the PYPC to discuss their drafts. The opportunity was also taken to identify where the young MPAs needed orientation and technical assistance and what were the thematic issues that they felt needed to be addressed. The following points were highlighted by the body:

- 1) It was appreciated that there was a need to understand the process of executive decision making and the process of law making in the Punjab Assembly.
- 2) MPAs' input on the Annual Budget was not taken which did not allow them to participate in discussion regarding budget allocated for youth activities.
- 3) MPAs were not given a role in yearly planning in the province.
- 4) MPAs did not know how to carry out legislation, or how law was made.
- 5) Members of the Caucus needed orientation and skills on drafting Punjab Assembly resolutions.

Sabiha Shaheen announced that another detailed orientation session will be held to discuss passing the bill on Early Marriages And Forced Marriages later the same day with a legal expert. Furthermore, there will be a meeting with the board to formalize election committee of the Caucus



3.2.5. Orientation on legislation on early and forced marriages:

Legal expert Mr. Mohsin Abbas Syed delivered a session on 28th December, 2014 on to seven MPAs for creating awareness and discussing the way forward for resolution on early marriages and forced marriages. This resolution was unanimously passed in the assembly.

Mr. Abbas during the session elaborated on the role of MPAs in helping to make this resolution a law. He explained that the resolution under normal circumstances has to be forwarded by the local department (Home Department or Local Government Department) to the Assembly for approval. However, the PYPC can also move it forward.

For this process to follow, he explained that the Caucus has to give notice to Speaker of the Punjab Assembly and present the bill to him. The speaker then will have to forward the bill to Home Department for approval and whetting. The Home Department then has to finalize (or present its objections to it). The bill would then go to the cabinet. The cabinet will pass the bill to the Assembly, where it will be put up for debate and its first reading. The Speaker will then give the bill to the relevant Standing Committee, which will be responsible for preparing a report on the bill. Then second reading of the bill will take place and whetting by the Home department again. After the third reading, the bill is passed as law.

Mr. Mohsin Abbas Syed also described an alternate route for the bill to be passed as legislation. He said that the Social Welfare Department could move the bill too, but that was a very lengthy process. In this case the Social Welfare Department has to forward the bill to the assembly; it will be moved to the government. The government passes the bill to all departments; after which it reaches the cabinet. Legislation then finally takes place in the Assembly.

In conclusion, if the Caucus takes this up the process it will be speeded up and is recommendable.

3.2.6. Appointment of an Election Committee:

A meeting with the Executive Body was held to form a three-person Election Committee for elections of the PYPC. The Election Committee was created for the purpose of electing a Chairperson, Vice Chair-person, General Secretary and Treasurer. The criteria for the upcoming elections were also discussed during this meeting.

It was decided that the elected individuals need to be committed, proactive, and they should also be especially sensitive to women and minority issues.

The last point was established because during Executive Body selection, many candidates showed lack of seriousness on issues regarding women.

The Election Body was made responsible for getting nomination forms and of encouraging the right people to apply who would carry objectives of the Caucus forward.

Caucus secretariat was entrusted with the task to collect nomination forms. No informal way for candidature submission had to be entertained; it was decided, other than filing the nomination forms either by on-line posting or in hard copy.

3.2.7. Urgent meeting: PYPC election by consensus:

An urgent meeting was called on 2nd January, 2015 to finalize eligible candidates for the PYPC elections, to build consensus among MPAs and to discuss the eligibility of the parliamentary secretary, standing committee on youth affairs as a Caucus elections' candidate.

The secretariat received six applications by the paper submission deadline for election of the Caucus office bearers (31st December, 2014). The applicants included MPAs Sardar Vickas Hassan Mokal and MPA Chaudhry Sarfraz Afzal for Chairperson; Ms Mary Gill for Vice Chairperson; Irfan Daultana and Tahia Noon for General Secretary and Nabila Hakim Ali (from PTI) for treasurer. Muhammad Ali Khokhar sent a text message to apply for Vice Chairperson minutes before the deadline but the Executive Body ruled out this medium of application in the light of decision made earlier.

After a long negotiation process among candidates, all office bearers of the Caucus were finalized by consensus by the end of the meeting. Subsequently, elections were cancelled that had to be held on January 5, 2015.



It was especially brought to notice in the start of the meeting that contact details of MPAs given on the assembly website were outdated and a revision was thus required. Many participants complained that they were not receiving text messages and

notices of the PYPC.

MPA Ch Iftikhar Hussain Chhachhar pointed out that he had a problem with the Executive Body's selection procedure and an election should have been held to elect them. In response to this, he was intimated that the present body came as a result of lengthy consultative process. One of the selection criteria of the EB was the cross-party participation in the Executive Body. Given dominance of one party in the Punjab Assembly, those parties which have minimal representation will be outvoted if we carry out elections by simple majority. Nevertheless, all parliamentary parties in the house were consulted on this regards.

It was also pointed that the bylaws clearly state for selection of Executive Body as opposed to elections.

Another concern that was raised during the meeting was that election date for office bearers should be postponed. This apprehension emerged out of limited time for campaigning for the elections. Discussion followed on this proposal.

MPA Adnan Fareed Qazi objected to candidature of MPA Chaudhry Sarfraz Afzal being Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Youth Affairs, Punjab Assembly. He viewed it could cause conflict of interest. Many members supported this concern and believed it would indeed cause a conflict of interest.

MPA Farah Manzoor Baloch opposed this, and gave Ms Azma Zahid Bukhari's example who was a parliamentary secretary and chairperson of the women Caucus at the same time. She said this would not be a conflict of interest as it was already being practiced. In response to this, Adnan Fareed pointed out that Ms Azma was not the chairperson of standing committee on women. She was parliamentary secretary and chairperson of the women Caucus. So a conflict of interest was not there. MPA Hashim Bakht contributed by adding that making Sarfraz Chaudhry the Chair-person could complement functioning of the Caucus in a way too; since he already had an office set up to start work.

Debate continued over the issue after which Chaudhry Sarfraz Chaudhry finally responded. He mentioned that since the inception of the Caucus he had been fully committed to the cause and devoted his time to it. He added if the bylaws are changed to include this clause as eligibility criteria for Chairperson, he would withdraw his application.

The majority viewed that there was no legal binding on holding two positions. However, some members then argued that it was morally wrong for Mr. Chaudhry to contest elections as he already held a major position in the Punjab Assembly.

Mian Adnan Fareed gave another proposal following the discussion on elections. He proposed to remove the name of Provincial Youth Minister Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan as Chief Patron of the Caucus. Instead, Chaudhry Sarfraz Afzal be given this position, he argued. He said Vcikas Mokal should be made Chairperson.

MPA Ehsan Riaz Fatyana, the youngest member of the Punjab Assembly, said that since Minister Mashhood Ahmad Khan was not under forty five years of age he should not be part of the Youth Caucus. He generally objected the age criteria of below forty five. At this juncture, Secretariat's representative explained that the Minister, in the first meeting, was declared Chief Patron by all MPAs and the decision could not be reverted in his absence. It was then decided that the Minister would remain Chief Patron and Chaudhry Sarfraz Afzal be made Patron.

It was concluded that amendments will be done in the Caucus byelaws to formalize the Minister and the Parliamentary Secretary's positions as ex-officio Chief Patron and Patron respectively. Furthermore, the tenure of the office bearers will be one year as opposed to two years stipulated in the Caucus bye-laws.

It was resolved that since a slot in the Executive Body was vacant; this should be filled by MPA Ehsan Riaz Fatyana being the youngest member of the Punjab Assembly.

There was an opinion raised that the elections should be held for office bearers of the Caucus, while others opposed it. There was discussion that followed this debate. Many members said that elections would cause groupings and affect performance of the Caucus. It was especially recommendable that in its formative year, the consensus among Caucus members was practically beneficial.

During the discussion on elections, it was further decided that since no one except Ms. Nabila Hakim Ali applied for Treasurer,

she should be given the position. The same applied to Ms. Mary Gill, as the other application for the same position (Vice Chairperson) was not accepted by the Executive Body. For the remaining two seats, elections were proposed. This led to lengthy discussion, negotiation among members and candidates and consultation with the Chief Patron in plenary and smaller groups. The meeting was eventually successful to reach at names of the remaining two candidates with consensus. It was agreed that Parliamentary Secretary, Chaudhry Sarfraz Afzal be made patron and MPA Sardar Vickas Hassan Mokhal as Chairperson. MPA Mian Irfan Daultana was elected Secretary of the Caucus.

3.2.8. Office bearers of the PYPC:

List of the elected office bearers of the Youth Caucus by consensus for tenure of one (1) year is as following:

#	Name	Constituency	Position
1	Sardar Vickas Hassan Mokhal	PP-180 (Kasur-VI)	Chairperson
2	Mary Gill	W-334	Vice-Chairperson
3	Mian Irfan Daultana	PP-234 (Vehari-III)	Secretary
4	Nabila Hakim Ali Khan	W-358	Treasurer

Executive Committee:

1. Mr. Hashim Jawan Bakht, MPA PP-291 (Rahimyar Khan-VII)
2. Mr. Umer Jafar, MPA PP-293 (Rahimyar Khan-IX)
3. Ms Farah Manzoor Baloch, MPA W-328
4. Ms Irum Hassan Bajwa, MPA W-344
5. Mr. Rafaqat Hussain Chaudhry, MPA PP-102 (Gujranwala-XII)
6. Mr. Ehsan Riaz Fatyana, MPA PP-58 (Faisalabad-VIII)
7. Mr. Haji Imran Zafar, MPA PP-111 (Gujrat-IV)
8. Mr. Mannan Khan, PMA PP-134 (Narowal-III)
9. Mr. Asif Mehmood, MPA PP-9 (Rawalpindi-IX)
10. Ms Faiza Ahmed Malik, MPA W-362
11. Mr. Ramesh Singh Arora, MPA NM-368

It was decided that the above office bearers will work under guidance of the PYPC Chief Patron, Minister Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan and Parliamentary Secretary, Chaudhry Safraz Afzal, and with technical support from Bargad and UNFPA.

Now that the internal formalities of the Caucus had been fulfilled, it was decided that the Caucus will be formally launched on 6th January at the Lahore Press Club

4. THIRD PHASE: LAUNCHING AND ACTIONS

4.1. Launching of the PYPC



Minister for Education, Youth Affairs, Archaeology and Tourism, Mr. Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan addressing the press conference at the launching of Punjab Youth Parliamentary Caucus

On 6th January, the PYPC was launched at the Lahore Press Club amidst young assembly members and a mass of journalists. At this occasion, office bearers and members of Caucus were also present. Chief Patron and Provincial Minister, Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan chaired the launching event,

The Provincial Minister announced names of the office bearers including members of the Executive Committee. It was told that three out of eleven committee members came from the opposition parties, while remaining eight belonged to the PML(N).

Honourable Minister said that the Youth Caucus has decided to make struggle at parliamentary level for highlighting more than 34 issues of young generation including unemployment and early age marriage and resolving these problems under a collective approach. He said that participation of young MPAs of opposition in Youth Caucus and their election at various offices reflects democratic approach.

Elected Chairperson of the Caucus, Sardar Vickas Hassan Mokal said that the main agenda of the Caucus was to work on youth empowerment and main areas where we want to focus for now are youth employment, providing students with career counselling and consulting women and minorities.

Due to official assignments, it took much time when on 31 March 2015, all the PYPC Officers in front of PYPC general body and media took the oath as PYPC Officers. In the meantime, the PYPC secretariat held 11 individual meetings which had the following outcomes:

- Meetings with Secretary Law, Punjab Assembly to forward the agenda of the child marriage bill to accelerate the process;
- Lobbying meetings were done for passing of the bill
- Draft Development of Briefing Paper (Government Rules) was done and both Urdu and English Versions were worked on;
- The office of the PYPC was establishment.



Left to Right: General Secretary PYPC, Mr Irfan Daultana; Chairperson PYPC, Mr Sardar Vickas Hassan Mokal; Minister for Education, Youth Affairs, Archaeology and Tourism, Mr Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan; Vice Chairperson PYPC, Ms. Mary Gill and Executive Director Bargad, Ms. Sabiha Shaheen.



4.1.1. Oath taking Ceremony and Meeting on Early Child Marriage Bill:

An oath taking ceremony for the Caucus was held on 31st March 2015 in Falleti's hotel to formally inaugurate the Caucus. Before the oath, a meeting was conducted on the child marriage bill by the secretariat in which the secretariat introduced thoroughly the Caucus members to the UNFPA and its work and support for Punjab Youth Policy, 2012 and the PYPC

Punjab Law Secretary (officiate) joined the session and described details of child marriage bill. Sadia Atta Mehmood and Dr. Babar shared their reservations and point of view about the missing links in proposed child marriage bill. Sabiha Shaheen elaborated that purpose of this sharing with PYPC is to think analytically about the proposed bill and we can get guidance about the legal issues from Secretary Law. As Secretary Law described, the main criticism and missing link in the bill was the factor of age determination. Currently there is no documented evidence required or associated with marriage contract that determined documented age of potential spouses. Secretary Law suggested that there are plenty of ways which can provide safe exist to the culprits. So documented proof of the age must be compulsory part of marriage contracts. It could be copy of National Identity Card or the copy of Passport. These two documents can grantee and determine the documented age of the potential spouses. And for this, a suggestion by the PYPC members should be raised on the floor of Punjab Assembly. This is the simple and permanent sulotion, only we need to redraft the marriage contract and make sure there is provision for this type of document.

PYPC members and officers shared that they need an internal meeting in this regard, although they are agree with the points raised by UNFPA, further clarified by Secretary Law, but still they require an internal meeting. Soon they will inform how they can contribute in this matter.

Dr. Babar from UNFPA presented statistics about population pressure, fertility rate, issues with reproductive health, and education etc. He also distributed few notes and printed material with participants.

At the end, PYPC officers took oath and the session came to a conclusion. Punjab Youth Minister Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan, who is patron in chief of the Caucus, administered the oath from the elected office bearers.

The oath of the Caucus stipulated that the members would be fulfilling their responsibility democratically and will be doing sincere efforts for youth development above political affiliations and as a member of the assembly would not create hurdles for any good cause for youth welfare and development.





Minister for Education, Youth affairs, Archeology and Tourism, Mr. Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan conducting the Oath Taking Ceremony.

Right to Left: Chairperson PYPC, Mr. Sardar Vickas Hassan Mokal, Minister for Education, Youth affairs, Archeology and Tourism, Mr. Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan, Patron PYPC, Parliamentary Secretary Mr. Chaudhry Sarfraz Afzal; General Secretary PYPC, Mr. Irfan Daultana; Vice Chairperson PYPC, Ms. Mary Gill.

4.2. Orientation sessions and actions

A monthly meeting was called at Iftaar on 23rd June 2015 at a local Hotel in Lahore. After the Budget 2015 it was the first meeting and was fruitful in terms of its agenda point and further independence of PYPC.

Vice chairperson Ms. Mary Gill shared that the early child marriage bill have been presented in assembly but PYPC has reservations on it. She added that in next assembly session, PYPC will raise the issue of supportive documents with marriage contract as a proof of age, such as Form B, National Identity Card or the copy of passport etc.

The Chairperson Sardar Vickas Hassan Mokal shared that he along with other assembly members will have a meeting with Speaker Punjab Assembly for the official building of PYPC in Punjab Assembly and the team will share its status.

The budget was not addressed by the participants as they said it was too early and the budget had just been announced. They suggested that there should be another exclusive session in September 2015 to discuss the Budget of 2016. It was decided that

from hereon, any meeting of PYPC will be called by the General Secretary.

4.2.1. Early child marriage bill:

The monthly Caucus meeting was conducted on 27th July, 2015. Fourteen (14) MPAs were present at the meeting. The Vice chairperson of the Caucus, Ms. Mary Gill then shared the agenda which mainly revolved around the importance of the Child Marriage Bill. An early marriage is internationally defined as marriage when one or both of the spouses is below the age of 18. This issue disproportionately affects girls more than boys.

The latest Child Marriage Restrain Bill was read out and was followed with remarks and feedback by the MPAs. Sindh was appreciated for including the Child Marriage Restraint Act in their policies during the meeting. The Caucus Chairperson wanted the youth to be involved actively in this issue and more awareness to be created on the field. The procedures to table the bill were discussed and Treasurer Ms. Nabila Hakim Ali Khan who suggested that a more elaborative session on the technicalities and legal process of the bill takes place in the next meeting.

A meeting was scheduled to be held in August in order to discuss and deliberate the technicalities and legal process of tabling a bill. The PYPC secretariat continued working on the child marriage bill and also held individual meetings as it was hard to bring all the MPAs together during the time of the local body elections.



4.2.2. Orientation on Punjab Government Rules of Business 2011:

The monthly PYPC meeting was conducted on 16th August 2015. PYPC Secretary Mr. Irfan Daultana suggested that we move on to other issues once early child bill is tabled.

Syed Ali Raza provided basic overview of the Punjab Government Rules of Business 2011 by highlighting its key features, manner in which provincial government is organized, methods through which government business is allocated to different departments, processes involved at various level of decision-making, extent of powers of key functionaries i.e. Chief Minister, Provincial Ministers, Chief Secretary and Secretaries of the Departments and Legislative and Assembly Business done by the Government.

The Chairperson appreciated the briefing paper and suggested that a soft copy should also be shared with PYPC for future references. Ms. Nabila Hakim Ali expressed her commitment towards tabling the bill and stated that concrete progress will be made in the coming month. The Chairperson also mentioned regarding a prospective UN meeting at which he planned to discuss child rights related issues. Syed Ali Raza informed PYPC about upcoming dialogue to be organized by DCHD (Democratic Commission for Human Development) on the Child Marriage Restraint Act and encouraged the members to participate to show their commitment and support. There was a commitment made towards tabling the bill and it was stated that concrete progress will be made in the coming month. It was decided that other issues would be worked on similarly once the bill has been tabled. Furthermore, a meeting with the UN was planned to discuss child rights and other related issues. Some members of the PYPC pledged that they would attend the upcoming dialogue on the Child Marriage Restraint Act.

4.2.3. Final draft of the early child marriages bill and other matters:

On 4th September, 2015, the Caucus discussed implementation strategies in timely and most efficient manner and to deliberate the plan of action. The meeting was attended by 18 MPAs and brought about a great opportunity for information exchange on the status of last meeting's action points and in-depth discussion regarding the central issues that persist. The key strength of the meeting was the presence of relevant officials and participants who initiated productive dialogue and proposed suggestions for a more effective functioning of the Caucus. Moreover, the fact that MPAs were from all major political parties broadened the horizon of the agenda.

A resolution regarding the Pakistan, India situation was drafted for PYPC to be presented in the Punjab Assembly. The whetted final version of the draft of the early child marriage bill was shared with the Caucus and the members were requested to table it in the Punjab Assembly. Caucus members requested that they be granted social media presence as an entity and envisaged a long-term plan of later having a dynamic website where all PYPC member can interact and update about the activities they are involved in. A request letter was signed by the Chairperson for Umeed Jawan in order to fund furnishing of the PYPC office. The Chairperson also shared that he had a meeting with the UN Head to collaborate with two of their projects: i) Labor laws with respect to Child Labor in Pakistan, and ii) Field visits for on-ground realities and direct input of youth.

5. Partnerships

PYPC has brought many government bodies and civil society organizations on board from across Punjab and the international organizations, committed to empower youth of the province. While this initiative made partnerships and collaborated on actions with a diverse group of stakeholders, the multiplying part of its impact is to encourage both PYPC as a whole and its members in individual capacities to take part in youth empowerment activities. The PYPC has as an institution created a constituency of public representatives to serve youth with the help of following key partnerships and collaborations so far:

5.1.1. Youth affairs department, government of the Punjab:

Youth affairs, sports, archaeology & tourism department - government of Punjab is where the idea of PYPC conceived. It is the focal point of youth affairs in the province of Punjab. It is responsible for youth development and youth mainstreaming into all levels of policy and programming in the province. It is therefore also linked up with other government, non-government and private sector stakeholders of youth development work in Punjab. After devolution of powers under 18th Amendment to the Constitution the Department also formulated Punjab Youth Policy in May 2012.

5.1.2. PYPC secretariat, Bargad –organization for youth development:

Bargad holds the PYPC secretariat. It has provided technical assistance to design the PYPC and to implement its activities. It is a youth led and youth focused organization working exclusively on youth development since 1997. With a vast volunteer base, Bargad has expanded into an umbrella organization for youth organizations and groups in Pakistan. Its projects have been collaborated by more than 64 universities. It has also led the work on provincial youth policies after induction of the 18th amendment to the Pakistani constitution. Punjab Youth Policy, 2012 is result of Bargad's technical assistance to the government of Punjab, among other notable interventions in the field of youth empowerment in Pakistan.

5.1.3. Henrich Boll Stiftung (HBS):

The Heinrich Böll Stiftung (HBS) has collaborated to design and support the PYPC. It is a German foundation and part of the Green political movement that has developed worldwide as a response to the traditional politics of socialism, liberalism, and conservatism. The main tenets of the foundation are ecology and sustainability, democracy and human rights, self-determination and justice. They place particular emphasis on gender democracy, meaning social emancipation and equal rights for women and men. They are also committed to equal rights for cultural and ethnic minorities. Finally, the Henrich Böll Foundation promotes non-violence and proactive peace policies. To achieve these goals, the foundation seeks strategic partnerships with others who share their values. The namesake, Heinrich Böll, personifies the values they stand for: protection of freedom, civic courage, tolerance, open debate, and the valuation of art and culture as independent spheres of thought and action.

5.1.4. United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA):

UNFPA has helped and supported PYPC through its implementing partner Bargad. It is the lead UN agency for delivering a world where every pregnancy is wanted, childbirth is safe and every young person's potential is fulfilled. UNFPA expands the possibilities for women and young people to lead healthy and productive lives. Since UNFPA started working in 1969, the number – and rate – of women dying from complications of pregnancy or childbirth has been halved. Families are smaller and healthier. Young people are more connected and empowered than ever before.

6. Collaborations

6.1.1. Pur-amn Pakistan conference:

It was decided that PYPC would be used as a forum to engage with several activities which are in close connection with the agenda of youth development. On 28th May 2015, Pur Amn Pakistan Conference was held which aimed to highlight a few points under the umbrella of National Action Plan and devising the role of civil society organizations, young activists, media, and other important stakeholders. To have a meeting with young participants and get an idea about the current issues and problems by the PYPC officials was an idea of Bargad. Since NAP has direct links and implications with the existing and emerging laws in provinces, on the last day of the conference, a meeting with PYPC Officials was arranged with young activists. The opportunity was used to discuss relevance of the Caucus and how it could be used as a forum to create genuine action. A session on PYPC was dedicated to the PYPC.

6.1.2. National youth peace festival:

Chanan Development Association (CDA) envisaged a project which aimed to bridge the gaps between the young people of Pakistan, particularly those living in far-flung areas with the mainstream national decision-making processes and providing them with the means to make change at their individual capacity in their respective communities. To this end, they planned on bringing more young people from conflict-affected areas, representatives of youth/women/minority-led civil society organizations, and inviting more law-makers from federal and provincial Governments so that these young people can voice their issues and present their recommendations concerning peace, democracy, human rights and their participation in decision-making processes and countering violent extremism. The PYPC pledged its full support to the event. Caucus members were present during opening ceremony of the 6th National Youth Peace Festival and played their part on hearing the voices and answering the questions of youth from all across Pakistan.

6.1.3. Forum on civil & political rights of women, minorities & youth:

PYPC in collaboration with Democracy Reporting International (DRI) organized a “Consultative Forum on Realizing Civil and Political Rights of Women Minorities and Youth.” Parliamentarians and civil society members participating in the consultative forum stressed the need to ensure civil and political rights of women, minorities and youth as enshrined in the constitution and as per Pakistan's international commitments.

Pointing many issues of youth, women and minorities, they highlighted the need for gender-disaggregated data on women's political participation and to facilitate the provision of CNICs to women across the province so that they could practice their political and electoral rights.

6.1.4. Green for white campaign:

The PYPC partnered with Bargad to commemorate the International Peace and National Minority Rights day on 8th October, 2015 and support the Green for White Campaign aimed at ending religious intolerance. The celebration was conducted in the form of a youth festival in which 600 young individuals will participate along with policy makers and elected leaders of the Punjab province. The project aimed at youth action oriented engagement for accepting diversity and embracing multiple religious/ sectarian identities in Pakistan. Any effort to delegitimize religious discrimination and violence requires support from the religious majority group (Muslims) towards the minorities to boost their confidence in their country and its people. Overall, the aim of the project was to build public and policy imperatives through youth engagement for freedom of religion and equal citizenship for all and provide a platform to support the National Action Plan which states that an “End to religious extremism and protection of minorities will be ensured”.

Members of the Youth Caucus were deeply involved in the execution of the project and pledged their support to the campaign. Some of the Caucus members also attended the event and took part in the discussions relating to religious extremism and intolerance in the youth

7. CONCLUSION AND WAY FORWARD

It was obvious at the outset that garnering support of the public representatives was not as easy task as it seemed; for this required for the elected members of the Punjab Assembly going beyond party affiliation and loyalties and group interests. But the young members of the Punjab Assembly in the end proved that they were more interested to create political and democratic spaces for the youth than their own political associations. Key part of the success can be attributed to relatively young ages of the MPAs of the Punjab Assembly and to raise political profile of youth empowerment tasks within their own political parties and the public sphere at large. They also established that the issues related with youth cannot be set aside in Pakistan.

There were also other challenges observed during course of the working of PYPC. First was related to timing of the initiative; in that due to the call of nationwide protest from major political party, there were hiccups in active participation of all the political stakeholders. But the issue has subsided now. This also affected running of Punjab Assembly sessions and subsequently the PYPC participation, because it was especially difficult for MPAs living outside Lahore to attend activities. A general sense of waiting and passivity was observed because of political uncertainty during the protest period.

The second challenge that was observed was demand of stipends for PYPC, Additionally; the Caucus still requires latest and a modern website that also uses smart application that can be operated via body gadgets, etc. However, the office space for PYPC within the Punjab Assembly for regular working limits utilizing its full potential. This has also showed up in few activities for regular engagement of the members.

Lastly, there are resource constraints especially given that the members are highly interested to get trainings in other courtiers and willing to network with international bodies and other Caucuses around the globe. Such exchanges will ask for more investment. The members particularly need capacity building on Sustainable Development Goals, 2015 nationally and internationally.

Despite such challenges, in the last one and half years, the PYPC has finalized its structures and smoothly won spaces within political parties to let it work independently of party pressures. It provided the young MPAs with orientation on Government Rules of Business 2011 and processes of executive decision making and law making in Punjab, which are essential to understand and activate decision making and legislative roles of the elected members and to help them understand how government works. Its contents were more than just information sharing and will practically increase quality input of the MPAs for democratic strengthening through youth empowerment work in Punjab.

On thematic level, the members were exposed in details to issues like youth profiles, health, population and gender. They encountered aspects of social empowerment of youth significantly that are often omitted in the face of economic empowerment when youth themes are discussed.

A great deal was achieved on legislative issues like the Early child marriages, The PYPC also were facilitated and got involved with issues related to youth extremism, peace building, minority rights, civil and political rights, youth engagement, etc.

The PYPC has continued to progress on its focus after identification of issues by its members; increase its visibility within the Punjab Assembly, reach to more partnerships and collaborations; engage with youth and provide legislative support leading to youth empowerment in Punjab. Its actions on early marriage bill and the minority rights are noteworthy, while this forum has adequately provided support to National Plan of Action against Terrorism.

The early focus on identification of issues is now paying off with the PYPC being in relatively settled position as far as its organization building and institutionalization is concerned. This space is conducive to further actions to work on economic, social and political/civic empowerment of youth and adolescents and receptive to increased partnerships and collaborations. The coming years will see an even stronger drive for youth empowerment as well as issues of SRH within the Punjab Assembly.

8. MEDIA COVERAGE

INTERNATIONAL
THE NEWS

TODAYS' NEWSPAPER

Founded by: Mir Khalil-ur-Rahman

Lahore

Punjab parliamentary youth caucus formed

Our Correspondent

Friday, June 13, 2014

From Print Edition

LAHORE

Punjab parliamentary youth caucus has been formulated which comprises of 84 members of the Punjab Assembly belonging to different parliamentary groups having upper age limit of 45 years.

The youth caucus was formulated in a meeting presided over by the Provincial Youth Affairs Minister Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan, here on Thursday. It was decided in the meeting that, besides a general body consisting of 84 MPAs, there will be an 11-member executive body of the youth caucus which will be represented by all the parliamentary groups of the Punjab Assembly. This caucus will help achieve consensus for resolution of issues pertaining to the youth bulge through across party mediation and facilitation process for cross-cultural dispute resolution.

The minister, emphasizing the significance of the newly formulated youth caucus, said that it would provide a launching pad for highlighting the great potential of Pakistani youth through interacting with the entire world. This youth caucus would also help identify the minute flaws, if any, in the current youth policy and suggest alternate dispute resolution for private consultation as this caucus would not be government controlled but would act as independent forum irrespective of political divide.

The PML-N members of Punjab Assembly, Chaudhry Sarfraz Afzal, Raja Muhammad Ali, Raja Muhammad Awais Khan, Ch. Abdul Razzaq Dhillon, Ameer Muhammad Khan, Aamir Anayat Khan Shahani, Khurram Abbas Sial, Ch. Rafaqat Hussain Gujjar, Haji Imran Zafar, Muhammad Khurram Gulfam, Ali Salman, Muhammad Kashif, Mian Shahzad Maqbool Bhutta, Mian Irfan Doltana, Ch. Muhammad Umar Jafar, Tahia Noon, Rashida Yaqoob, Mehwish Sultana, Farah Khan, Lubna Rehan, Irum Hassan Bajwa, Bushara Anjam Butt, Raheela Khadim Hussain, Merry Gill, Syed Raza Ali Gillani, Muhammad Faizan Khalil, Muhammad Naeem Safda Ansari, Muhammad Kashif Padhiyar, Naeem Ullah Gill, Makhdoom Jawan Bakht, Ghulam Murtaza, Muhammad Irfan, Mian Naseer Ahmed, Zahid Akram and Mian Shoaib Awaisi attended the meeting.

DAWN

Parliamentary body with 84 MPAs formed

THE NEWSPAPER'S STAFF REPORTER — PUBLISHED FOR \$1, 304,57,35AM



LAHORE: The Punjab Parliamentary Youth Caucus has been formed comprising 84 MPAs from different parliamentary groups with upper age limit of 45 years.

The panel was formed in a meeting presided over by Youth Affairs Minister Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan here on Thursday.

An 11-member executive body representing all political shades will run the independent panel formed to help achieve consensus for resolution of issues pertaining to the country's youth bulge.

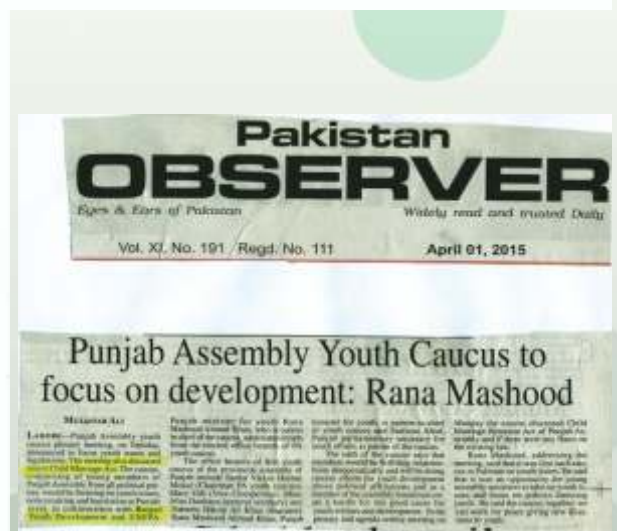
It will help identify the flaws, if any, in the current youth policy and suggest alternate dispute resolution for private consultation.

MPAs belonging to PML-N, PTI and PML-Q attended the meeting.

Sabtha Shaheen, a representative of youth organisation Bargad, briefed the meeting about the charter of the caucus to be discussed in its next meeting to be held in a committee room of the Punjab Assembly on Friday (today).

Rana Mashhood said a UN delegation led by its special envoy for youth would reach the provincial metropolis on June 18 to hold a meeting with the caucus' executive body.

Published in Dawn, June 13th, 2014



Govt advised to define youth quota in LG polls

September 1995, 1996

Print : [Latvian](#)

LAHORE

The Punjab Youth Parliamentary Caucus meeting on Friday discussed the need of maximum youth representation in the upcoming Local Governments' polls.

The 14th meeting of the PYPC discussed the progress of the group and stressed the need for speeding up its pace. The PYPC, discussing the issue of one percent quota specified for youth in the upcoming Local Governments' election in the Punjab, urged the youth to play maximum positive role to highlight the issues of youth at local level. Sarfar Vickers Hassan Molal, MPA PP-180 (Kasur-VI), Mary Gill, MPA W-334, Irfan Daultana, MPA PP-234 (Vehari-III), Nabeela Hakim Ali Khan, MPA W-358, Farah Manzoor Baloch, MPA W-328, Ehsan Razi Farzana, MPA PP-58 (Faisalabad-VIII), Mannan Khan, MPA PP-134 (Narowal-III), Ramesh Singh Arora, MPA NM-368 and other parliamentarians participated in the 14th meeting of the PYPC. The caucus urged the youth also to participate in the Local Governments' election with full spirit and zeal. The caucus also advise the provincial government to define the details of one percent youth quota and include all the genders and representatives from different fields to represent youth. The meeting emphasised the government to include women, transgenders, labour and minorities in the specified quota.

Mokal, Chairman of the PYPC, announced that Speaker of the assembly had granted a space in the old building of the house to open an office of the PYPC at the moment. Legally whetting early child marriage bill will be put on the table in the next assembly session of the Punjab Assembly, he added. He said the PYPC was so closely working with different nongovernmental organisations on religious harmony and the group would also try to present some laws about it. He said the young parliamentarians would have to do this collective effort for strengthening county's youth as a torch bearer.

Ehsan Riaz Fityana urged the caucus to study German model of imparting skills and technical education from school level to help youth in getting better technical education and get benefit from this.

DAWN

Action against institutes charging students for security: minister

THE NEWSPAPER'S STAFF REPORTER — UPDATED JAN 27, 2015 09:45AM



Punjab Minister for Education and Youth Affairs Rana Mashhood speaks during launching ceremony of Punjab Youth Parliamentary Caucus at Lahore Press Club. — INP

LAHORE: Punjab is going to launch the Youth Volunteer Force and Neighbourhood Watch Programme as part of the counter-terrorism strategy.

This was stated by Punjab Minister for Education and Youth Affairs Rana Mashhood while introducing the first elected body of the Youth Caucus of the Punjab Assembly at a press conference here on Tuesday.

The office-bearers of the caucus are: PML-Q's Sardar Vickas Hassan Mokal, chairman; PML-N's Mary Gill, vice-chairperson; Irfan Daultana, secretary; and PTI's Nabeela Hakim Ali Khan, treasurer. An 11-member executive committee has also been elected.

'Research-oriented solutions to be promoted'

June 25, 2019

Printed on 12/29/2016

LAHORE

An organisation for youth development organised the 13th meeting for the Punjab Youth Parliamentary Caucus at an Iftar on Wednesday where members announced that research oriented solutions would be promoted in the Punjab parliament with suggestions and consensus from all the parties.

MPA Hashim Jawan Bakht PML (N) stressed the need for research. MPA Adnan Fareed PML (N) commented on the importance of a platform like the Youth Caucus by commending Bargaad for this feat where representation from all the parties got a chance to sit and work together. He said "Here we work for the youth without the labels of our political affiliations". MPA PTI Asif Mehmood stressed the need for a result based approach in working for the youth and the effective role that this Youth Caucus could play towards that. Pakistan's youngest MPA Chaudhry Muhammad Hassan Riaz pointed out the need for promoting culture amongst the youth of Pakistan.

Chairperson Punjab Youth Parliamentary Caucus Sardar Vickas Hassan Mokai said the Youth Caucus would be presenting its recommendations against the Early Child Marriage Bill in the Punjab Assembly. He also said that with the General Secretary Youth Caucus, Irfan Daultana would ensure that caucus meetings became a regular feature where the members could discuss the most pressing issues that were being faced by our youth today. He also requested the Bargad to assist the caucus in conducting research.

To this Executive Director Bargad Sabita Shaheen responded by highlighting how the MPAs were always made easy targets for critics with a negligible amount of investment was actually made towards building their capacity. She ensured that Bargad would continue its assistance and support towards furthering the cause of the Youth Caucus. The meeting was also attended by Mary Gill, Farah Manzoor, Saira Ifthikhar, Lubna Rehman, Rana Manan, Nabila Hakim Ali Khan, Shazia Kamran, Raja Ashad Hafeez, Mehmood-ul-Hassan, Akhtar Hiraaj and other MPAs.

Responding to a question, Mr Mashhood said action would be taken against the schools and colleges who would charge their students for expenses on extra security measures. He said the public and private institutes failing to complete security arrangements in accordance with the standard operating procedures (SOPs) of the home department on Jan 12 would be taken to task.

Introduces office-bearers of PA youth caucus

The youth would be given an active role in the Youth Volunteer Force and Neighbourhood Watch programme, Mashhood said while responding to a query regarding security affairs of educational institutes in the province when they would open on Jan 12.

The volunteer force would comprise 500,000 youth to work at the union council level as students of 9th and 10th class willing to work would be registered while core groups, comprising 20 students of each college, would be set up within a week.

Mr Mashhood said civil defence modules had been prepared for the basic training of the youth force for peace in form of district groups.

Work on the Youth Caucus, comprising 86 members of the Punjab Assembly aging less than 45 years, had started eight months, Mashhood said, adding that the caucus would work on the issues specifically related to the young generation, he maintained. Starting from inter-provincial harmony, it would work with international youth groups to identify and solve the problems of the youth bulge here, he added.

Rana Mashhood said the caucus had decided to highlight more than 34 issues of young generation, including unemployment and underage marriage, and resolving these problems with a collective approach. He said the participation of young MPs of the opposition as well as of minorities in the body reflected democratic approach.

Published in Dawn, January 7th, 2015



‘Govt making laws to eliminate child labour’

April 01, 2015

Print : [Lahore](#)

MPAs: Provincial Minister for Education and Youth Affairs Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan administered the oath as a patron-in-chief to the newly elected office-bearers of the Punjab Youth Parliamentary Caucus.

Patron Parliamentary Secretary for Youth Affairs Punjab of Punjab Youth Parliamentary Caucus Ch. Sarfraz Afzal was also present.

Chairman Youth Caucus Sardar Waqas Hasan Moakal MPA, General Secretary Mian Irfan Daultana MPA, and Finance Secretary Nabila Hakim Ali Khan MPA and Minority Member Punjab Assembly Mary Gill also took the oath as Vice-Chairman Caucus. Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan advised the young members of the Punjab Assembly up to the age of 35 years to pledge that they would make legislation for the betterment and welfare of the youth by rising above political consideration and bring forth effective suggestions for resolving the problems of the youth.

He said the PML (N) leadership had awarded party tickets to more than 70 percent youth for sending them to assemblies during the last three general elections. He expressed the hope that members of the youth caucus would coordinate with each other in the national affairs and would not allow any hindrance in the welfare of youth.

The minister said that only those young parliamentarians had the right to be called as future leadership who would set an example of commitment with collective objectives.

He asked the members of the Punjab Youth Parliamentary caucus to start interaction with the assemblies of other provinces through video conferencing and the Punjab government would extend all-out cooperation to them. Parliamentary Secretary Ch. Sarfraz Ahmed also spoke.

LAHORE

PROVINCIAL Minister for Education and Youth Affairs Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan has said that all private and public educational institutions in Punjab will open on January 12, barring schools and universities that have refused to comply with the new Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) given by the Punjab government. The security of students and faculty staff is the

He said this while speaking at a press conference on Tuesday organised by the Barghad Organisation for Youth Development and Government of the Punjab to launch the Punjab Assembly Youth Caucus.

The Punjab Assembly, for the first time, has formed the youth caucus to highlight and raise issues pertaining to the young in the province including early child marriage, unemployment, and drug addiction. PML-Q MPA Sardar Vickas Hassan Mokhal has been elected unopposed as the first Chairman of the Punjab Assembly Youth Caucus.

Speaking to the press, Minister Rana Mashhood said that a group, comprising MPAs below 45 years, were members of the youth caucus. The young MPAs will work beyond the party affiliations to debate and highlight challenges facing the youth of Punjab. According to Mashhood, an estimate 86 members of the Punjab Assembly are under the age of 45 years and are capable of representing the youth of the province consisting 50 percent of the total population.

The journey of forming the Punjab Youth Caucus began in 2010 and the last eight months were spent in holding elections of office-bearers, said Mashhood. He assured the politicians that both women and parliamentarians of non-Muslim faiths would have an opportunity to take the leadership positions within the caucus. In this defining moment when faced with terrorism and religious extremism, the caucus will play a positive role, emphasised Rana Mashhood.

Addressing the press conference along with the caucus Executive Committee of PML-N MPA Mary Gill, PML-N MPA Mian Irfan Daultana, and PML-Q MPA Sardar Vickas Hassan Mokhal, Mashhood stated that the youth caucus was need of the hour as issues of young people were not debated in the Punjab Assembly. He urged other provinces to form similar forums for the young parliamentarians. Already a women caucus is working in the Punjab Assembly on the female empowerment and a youth caucus will actively work to address grievances of the young people, the minister added.

The youth caucus, before the elections of the Executive Committee, also recently held meetings with Punjab Assembly Speaker Rana Muhammad Iqbal Khan and took him into confidence, the minister stated. He further said the Speaker assured full cooperation to the Punjab Assembly Youth Caucus.

Executive Director of the Barghad Organisation for Youth Development, Sabiha Shaheen, said the youth caucus was a bipartisan forum and the Punjab government had encouraged the opposition and other political parties to participate in the caucus.

The caucus aims to work for consensus building and agenda-setting beyond and above party lines for the youth and adolescent empowerment in the areas of education, health, sports, jobs, skills development, and socio-economic betterment, she stated on Tuesday. It will initiate programmes for the capacity building of members on key adolescent and youth empowerment issues. The caucus will also conduct research and analyses of issues facing them and raise them in the Punjab Assembly and its committees through its MPA members, Shaheen informed.

Mashhood told the media present there that the youth caucus would ensure parliamentary insight for the implementation of the Punjab Youth Policy 2012 and other youth-related initiatives of the government.

It will suggest the policy reforms and laws to the Punjab government through the assembly resolutions and debates in the House to resolve their problems.



Oath-taking ceremony

Constitution of youth caucus a pioneering initiative, says minister

Caucus members vow to give primacy to youth development over political affiliations

AMEL GHANI
LAHORE

Education Minister Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan said on Tuesday that the constitution of the Provincial Youth Caucus was a pioneering initiative.

He was speaking at the caucus's oath-taking ceremony. A plenary meeting of the caucus was also held later. Mashhood, who is the chief patron of the caucus said the group would provide young lawmakers the opportunity of formulating policies that would guide the youth of the nation.

Chairperson Vikas Hassan Mokhal, vice-president Mary Gill, secretary general Irfan Daultana and Nabila Hakim Ali Khan vowed to fulfil their responsibilities democratically and give primacy to youth development over political affiliations.

Sadia Atta of the United Nations Population Fund discussed the International Conference of Population and Control 1994 with those present at the plenary meeting. She said it was imperative for youth issues to be addressed to create an industrious national

workforce. Atta said the young segment (individuals between the ages of 10 years- 24 years) of the nation's population had been increasing. She said this trend was set to continue in the future. Atta said the number of people in the 15-59 age bracket was set to double by 2030.

She said it was necessary to raise awareness regarding population growth among youngsters and foster debate regarding adolescence issues.

Bargad executive director Sabiha Shaheen said the caucus had been established to address the challenges confronting the youth by making young lawmakers a part of the parliamentary process.

Law and Parliamentary Department Syed Mohsin Abbas outlined the changes made to the Child Marriage Restraint Act and proposed further amendments to it. He emphasised various problems that bedevil the effective implementation of such laws. Abbas also suggested that an implementation strategy be suggested within the law.

Chairperson Mokhal said every caucus member should bring attention to the issues confronting the youth in their constituencies. The members of the caucus expressed hope that they would be able to introduce effective legislation to address youth issues.



THE EXPRESS TRIBUNE PAKISTAN PUNJAB

Restraining child marriages: Religious groups against raising minimum age

By Amel Chani Published: June 25, 2015



The training aimed at sensitising police about laws pertaining to child marriage. PHOTO: AFP

LAHORE: Provincial Assembly Member (MPA) Mary Gill of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) said on Tuesday that the Parliamentary Youth Caucus wanted to raise the minimum age stipulated in the Child Marriage Restraint Act.

Gill expressed her reservations regarding the Act at the 13th meeting of the caucus. She said this was something the caucus had wanted to do but was not been able to in the past. Gill said the caucus wanted to make CNICs mandatory for registration of marriages in a bid to ensure that both individuals were adults.

She said an amendment to this effect had not been introduced due to the influence of religious organisations. 'The Act was passed in its original shape dating back to 1929 with the exception of a few changes. It is crucial to keep on amending it in accordance with the needs of changing times,' Gill said.

Other lawmakers present on the occasion concurred with her saying using the medium of the caucus would garner more support on this account. MPA Nabila Hakim of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) said the Council of Islamic Ideology (CII) had opposed raising the minimum age in the Act. She expressed her support for the proposal saying such a move would significantly benefit women's health. 'A large number of women die during childbirth as they are too young to give birth to children,' Hakim said. She said raising the minimum age would also play a pivotal role in making women financially independent.

The lawmakers also expressed concern over the fact that no concrete vision statement or work agenda of the caucus had been formulated despite the passage of over a year since its inception. They observed that the exercise ought to be more result-oriented.

MPA Makhdoom Jawan Bakht of the PML-N said the caucus should define four to six key objectives and formulate a plan to realise these by 2018.

He said it was crucial to ensure that research was carried out to identify important issues impacting youngsters and ways of overcoming them to facilitate the introduction of relevant legislation. MPA Saira Iftikhar of the PML-N concurred with Bakht and said projects should be spread out over a six-month, one-year and two-year period to chart visible progress.

MPA Vickas Mokul of the Pakistan Muslim League-Qusaid (PML-Q) told The Express Tribune that a delay in caucus meetings had slowed work down. Mokul, who is also the chairperson of the caucus, said organisations supporting the caucus had to effectively liaise with one another to ensure that it met more often.

He assured those present on the occasion that he had met various officials of international non-government organisations (NGOs) to discuss their involvement and support for the caucus. Mokul said he had also reached out to the NGOs in a bid to peruse best policy practices regarding youngsters abroad. He said it was arduous to consolidate issues relevant to youngsters since they happened to be multidisciplinary in nature. Mokul said they encompassed sectors such as education, health, environment and economy.

The meeting was organised by Bargad and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

Published in The Express Tribune, June 25th, 2015.



Oath-taking ceremony: Constitution of youth caucus a pioneering initiative, says minister

LAHORE: Education Minister Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan said on Tuesday that the constitution of the Provincial Youth Caucus was a pioneering initiative. He was speaking at the caucus's oath-taking ceremony. A plenary meeting of the caucus was also held later. Mashhood, who is the chief patron of the caucus said the group would provide young lawmakers the opportunity of formulating policies that would guide the youth of the nation. Chairperson Vikas Hassan Mokhal, vice-president Mary Gill, secretary gen



PA Youth Caucus to focus on peace, development

LAHORE: Punjab Assembly Youth Caucus plenary meeting on Tuesday announced to focus youth issues and legislation, as the meeting also discussed recent Child Marriage Act.

The caucus, comprising of young members of Punjab Assembly from all political parties, would be focusing on youth issues, policy-making and legislation at Punjab level, in collaboration with Bargaad Youth Development and UNFPA. Punjab Minister for Youth Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan, who is patron in chief of the caucus, administered oath from the elected office bearers of PA youth caucus. The office bearers of first youth caucus of the Provincial Assembly include Sardar Vikas Hassan Mokhal (Chairman Youth Caucus), Mary Gill (Vice Chairperson), Mian Irfan Daultana (general secretary) and Nabeeha Hakim Ali Khan (treasurer).

Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan, Punjab minister for youth, is patron-in-chief of youth caucus and Sarfaraz Afzal, Punjab parliamentary secretary for youth affairs, is patron of the caucus. The

oath of the caucus says that members would be fulfilling responsibility democratically and will be doing sincere efforts for youth development above political affiliations and as a member of the assembly would not create a hurdle for any good cause for youth welfare and development. In the plenary and agenda setting meeting on Monday the caucus discussed Child Marriage Restraint Act of Punjab Assembly and if there were any flaws on the existing law.

Rana Mashhood, addressing the meeting, said that it was first such caucus in Pakistan on youth issues. He said that it was an opportunity for young assembly members to take up youth issues and focus on politics directing youth. He said the caucus, together, we can work for peace giving new directions to youth. Mokhal, chairman of the caucus, said that they would focus their agenda on youth developments and legislations required for youth. He said that the members of youth caucus should highlight youth issues of their constituencies on the floor of the house. STAFF REPORT

پنجاب اسمبلی میں پہلے یوتھ کوکس کے امیدواران کا اعلان

میڈروپولین 1

07 جنوری 2015



Tweet

Like 8

لاہور (وفاقی نگار) وزیر تعلیم و نوجوانان برائے پنجاب حکومت رانا مشہود احمد خان نے گزشتہ روز برگد کے پلیٹ فارم سے لاہور پریس کلب میں پریس کانفرنس سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے پنجاب اسمبلی میں پہلے یوتھ کوکس کے امیدواران کا اعلان کر دیا۔ گروپ مختلف سیاسی جماعتوں کے ممبران پنجاب اسمبلی پر مشتمل ہو گا اور اسمبلی میں نوجوانوں کے مسائل اور قانون سازی کے معاملات کو دیکھے گا۔ اس موقع پر برگد این جی او کی ڈائریکٹر صبیحہ شامین، یوتھ کاکس کے پہلے چیئر پرسن سردار وقاص حسن موکل اور دیگر امیدواران بھی موجود تھے۔ رانا مشہود نے کہا کہ یوتھ کاکس کے حوالے سے سیکرٹری پنجاب اسمبلی رانا اقبال احمد خان نے مکمل تعاون کا یقین دلایا ہے۔ یونائیٹڈ نیشنز پاپولیشن فنڈ، ہیڈکوارٹر بال سٹڈنک اور برگد تنظیم برائے ترقی نوجوانان یوتھ کاکس پنجاب میں فنی و مالی امداد فراہم کر رہے ہیں۔ منتخب امیدواران پنجاب اسمبلی یوتھ کاکس میں چیئر پرسن سردار وقاص حسن موکل، وائس چیئر پرسن میری گل، سیکرٹری میاں عرفان دولتانہ اور خزانچی نبیلہ ماکم علی خان شامل ہیں۔

عرفان دولتانہ یوتھ پارلیامانی کوکس کے سیکرٹری منتخب

میڈروپولین 1

06 جنوری 2015

لاہور (نمائندہ خصوصی) مسلم لیگ (ن) کے رکن صوبائی اسمبلی میاں عرفان دولتانہ یوتھ پارلیامانی کوکس پنجاب کے سیکرٹری منتخب ہو گئے۔ یوتھ کوکس پنجاب کا سیکرٹری منتخب ہونے پر سیاسی اور حلقے کے حوام نے ان کو مبارکباد دی تفصیلات کے مطابق یوتھ کوکس پنجاب کی میٹنگ ہوئی جس میں متفقہ طور پر میاں عرفان دولتانہ کو سیکرٹری منتخب کیا گیا یوتھ کوکس پنجاب کے میڈن ان چیف صوبائی وزیر امور نوجوان رانا مشہود احمد میڈن پارلیامانی سیکرٹری چوہدری سرفراز اور چے ٹرین ایم پی اے سردار وقاص حسن موکل ہوں گے۔ میاں عرفان دولتانہ نے سیکرٹری منتخب کرنے پر تمام ارکان کا شکریہ ادا کیا۔

اردو پوائنٹ
مسئلہ اشاعت 15 ستمبر 2015

لاہور
مرکز صحت و تندرستی

پاکستان کے ہر شہر کا اپنا اردو پوائنٹ

منگل 31 مارچ 2015

پنجاب یوتھ پارلیامانی کاکس کے منتخب امیدواروں کی تقریب حلف برداری، وزیر تعلیم نے
امیدواروں حلف لیا
کاکس کے ارکان کسی بھی سیاسی رنجش یا پارٹی وابستگی کو نوجوانوں کی بہتری کے کاموں میں
رکاوٹ نہ بننے دیں، رانا مشہود احمد

لاہور (اردو پوائنٹ انٹرنیٹ ٹرین - 31 مارچ 2015ء) وزیر تعلیم و امور
نوجوانان پنجاب رانا مشہود احمد خاں نے پنجاب یوتھ پارلیامانی کاکس کے
پیڈرن ان حثیت کی حیثیت میں یوتھ کاکس کے منتخب امیدواروں سے
ان کی ذمہ داریوں کا حلف لیا۔ اس حوالے سے خصوصی تقریب میں
پنجاب یوتھ پارلیامانی کاکس کے پیڈرن (سرپرست) پارلیامانی سیکرٹری
برائے یوتھ انیورسٹیز پنجاب پی جی سر قمر زبیر نے بھی شرکت کی۔

یوتھ کاکس کے چیئرمین سردار وقاص حسن موکل ایم پی اے، بنزل
سیکرٹری میاں عرفان دوکانہ ایم پی اے اور ذوالحمیٰ خیلہ حاکم علی خان ایم پی اے کے علاوہ پنجاب اسمبلی کی اقلیتی رکن مخدوم میری
گل نے کاکس کی وائس چیئرمین کے طور پر حلف اٹھایا۔ تقریب سے خطاب میں امیر نوجوانان کے صوبائی وزیر رانا مشہود احمد خاں نے
35 سال تک عمر کے نوجوان ارکان پنجاب اسمبلی کو نصیحت کی کہ وہ اس بلت کا عزم کریں کہ کسی طرح کی سیاسی ترجیحات سے بالاتر
کونوجوانوں کی بہتری اور ترقی کے لئے قانون سازی کریں گے اور نوجوانوں کے مسائل کی نشاندہی کے ساتھ ساتھ ان مسائل کے حل
کے لئے موثر تجاویز سامنے لائیں گے۔

انہوں نے کہا کہ پاکستان مسلم لیگ (ن) کی قیادت نے گزشتہ تین عام انتخابات کے موقع پر ہر مرتبہ 70 فیصد سے زیادہ نوجوانوں کو
پارٹی ٹکٹ دے کر اسمبلی تک پہنچایا ہے۔ رانا مشہود احمد خاں نے اس موقع کا اظہار کیا کہ یوتھ کاکس کے ارکان ایک دوسرے سے
سیکڑوں قومی معاملات میں اپنا نقطہ نظر منبھ کریں گے، حکومت کے ساتھ ایک مل کا کام دیں گے اور کسی بھی سیاسی رنجش یا پارٹی
وابستگی کو نوجوانوں کی بہتری کے لئے کئے گئے کاسوں میں رکاوٹ نہیں بننے دیں گے۔

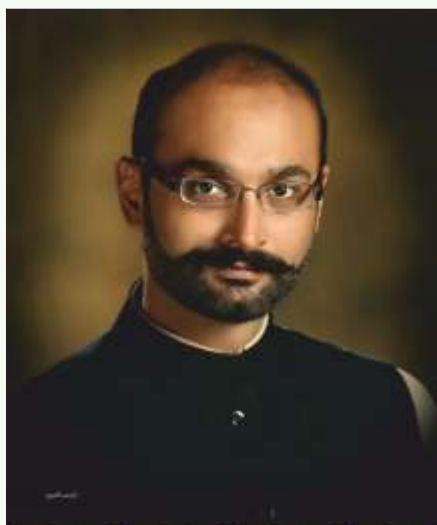
رانا مشہود احمد خاں نے کہا کہ نوجوان پارلیمنٹریں اعلیٰ انتظامی مقاصد کے ساتھ وابستہ رہنے کی مثال قائم کریں گے، بھوت اور منافقت
سے دور رہ کر کام کریں گے، وہی قیود لیدر شپ کاٹنے کا حق رکھتے ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پنجاب یوتھ پارلیامانی کاکس کے ارکان
ویڈیو کانفرنسنگ کے ذریعے پاکستان کے دیگر صوبوں کی اسمبلیوں کے ساتھ انٹرا سیکشن کا سلسلہ شروع کریں، حکومت پنجاب اس حوالے
سے انہیں ہر ممکن تعاون فراہم کرے گی۔

پارلیامانی سیکرٹری پی جی سر قمر زبیر نے اپنے ماحولیت میں پنجاب یوتھ پارلیامانی کاکس کے قیام کو پاکستان کے باغ میں ایسے
گلدستے کا اضافہ قرار دیا جو مفاہمت کے جذبے سے پاکستان کو ایک پرامن مستقبل دینے کا وسیلہ بنے گا۔ وزیر تعلیم پنجاب
رانا مشہود احمد خاں نے آج "پنجاب پنجاب... پنجاب" مہم کے آغاز کی تقریب میں شرکت کرنے والے سکول ایجوکیشن ریفارمز روڈ
میپ مہم کے ارکان، سرکاری یونیورسٹیوں کے وائس چانسلرز کالجوں کی پرنسپلز اور ڈی ایٹ آئی ڈی کے سیکشن ڈیپلٹمنٹ اسٹنٹ
سربراہانیکل بار کے اجلاس میں خطاب کا انجام کیا۔

تقریب میں صوبائی وزیر ہائونگ، مواصلات و تعمیرات تنویر اسلم ملک، وزیر صنعت پی جی شفیق، سیکرٹری لبرلزمی ڈائریکٹری پی جی
سیکرٹری سکول پنجاب عبدالجبار شاہین، ڈائریکٹر پی ایم آئی یو آصف اقبال، چیئرمین ہائونگ ایجوکیشن پنجاب ڈاکٹر نظام الدین، چیئرمین پنجاب
ایجوکیشن فاؤنڈیشن انجینئر قمر الاسلام راجہ، چیئرمین ٹیکسٹ بک اتھارٹی لیشینٹ بنزل (ر) محمد اکرم خان، چیئرمین پی آئی ٹی ڈی ڈاکٹر عمر
سینت اور دیگر ماہرین تعلیم کے علاوہ صدر لاہور ہائی کورٹ بار لوسویشن مسعود چشتی اور معاشرے کے دیگر شہلوں سے تعلق رکھنے
والے عابریں نے شرکت کی۔

APPENDICES

Annexure 1: PYPC office bearers, 2015



Chairperson:

Mr. Sardar Vickas Hassan Mokhal MPA PP-180
(Kasur-VI)

Sardar Vickas Hasan Mokhal son of Sardar Hasan Akhtar Mokhal was born on June 23, 1976 at Faisalabad. He graduated in 1994 from Government College, Lahore and obtained the degree of M.Sc (Economics) in 1997 from Lahore School of Economics, Lahore. An agriculturist by profession, he has been elected as Member, Provincial Assembly (MPA) of the Punjab in general elections 2013 and is functioning as Chairperson, Standing Committee on Management & Professional Development Department. He has visited Japan, India, USA, UK and Saudi Arabia. Three publications titled “*Textile Policy 2005*” published in 2002-03; “*SME Development*” published in 2005; and “*Leather, Gems and Jewellery Textiles Ceramics*” published in 2009 are to his credit. His father served as MPA for six consecutive terms (1985-88, 1988- 90, 1990-93, 1993-96, 1997-99 and 2002-07) and functioned as Deputy Speaker Punjab Assembly (1988-90 and 1997-99) and as Minister for Public Health Engineering, Management & Professional Development (2002-07).



Vice-chairperson:

Ms. Mary Gill
MPA W-334

Ms. Mary Gill daughter of Raja Nathaniel Gill was born on August 28, 1985. She obtained the degrees of B.A (Hons) with Roll of Honour in 2004 from Lahore College for Women University, Lahore and that of LL.B in 2007. She is a Life Member of Lahore Bar Association, Lahore High Court Bar Association and Associate Member of American Bar Association. An advocate, she was elected as MPA in general elections 2013 against seat reserved for women. Her father was Senior Vice Chairman of Minorities Advisory Council, Government of Punjab. Within the Punjab Assembly, Ms. Gill is active member of the standing committees on Commerce and Investment, Culture and Youth Affairs, Library Committee, Special Committee No.6. She has a special penchant for working on minority rights and social development issues in public circles.



Secretary:
Mr. Irfan Daultana
MPA PP-234 (Vehari-III)

Smian Irfan Aqeel Daultana son of Mian Shaukat Ali Aqeel was born on March 29, 1976 in Lahore. After initial schooling at Aitchison College, Lahore, he graduated in Science in 1996 from University of the Punjab; then obtained the degree of MBA in 1998 in Marketing/Finance from CSM Institute, Lahore; and Diploma in Architecture in 2000 from University of Cambridge, UK. A businessman by profession, he has been elected as MPA in general elections 2013. He has extensively travelled abroad. He belongs to a distinguished political family of Punjab. His mother, Mrs Tehmina Daultana was Member of National Assembly (MNA) during 1993-96, 1997-99, 2002-08, 2008-13 and is sitting MNA. She functioned as Minister for Women Development, Social Welfare & Special Education (1997-99), as Minister for Science & Technology (2008) and is serving a Chairperson, Parliamentary Committee on Appointment of the Chairperson of the National Commission on the Status of Women. His grandfather, Mr. Riaz Daultana remained MNA (1972-77 and 1985-88), whose brother Mian Mumtaz Muhammad Daultana was Chief Minister of Punjab (1951-53).



Treasurer:
Ms. Nabila Hakim Ali Khan
MPA W-358

Ms Nabila Hakim Ali Khan daughter of Mr Hakim Ali Khan was born on October 11, 1972 at Sahiwal. She graduated in Law in 1999 from Bahauddin Zakariya University, Multan (Sahiwal Campus). She served twice as Member, District Council during 2002-08; and as Member, District Public Safety and Police Complaints Commission Sahiwal. A legal practitioner by profession, she was elected MPA in general elections 2013 against one of the seats reserved for women. She has travelled to Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Thailand, Singapore and Malaysia.

Executive Committee:



Mr. Hashim Jawan Bakht
MPA PP-291
(Rahimyar Khan-VII)

Makhdum Hashim Jawan Bakht son of Makhdum Ruknuddin was born on September 27, 1979. He obtained the degree of B.Com from McGill University, Canada. Prior to contesting the general elections in 2013 he was associated with the Banking sector and served as Vice President, Corporate & Investment Banking division at Citibank. He has been elected as MPA in general elections 2013 and is functioning as Chairman, Standing Committee on Finance. His father was MNA (1988-90). His brother, currently a MNA, Makhdum Khusro Bakhtyar served as MPA during 1997-99 and as MNA (2002-07) and functioned as Minister of State for Foreign Affairs (2005-07).



Mr. Umer Jafar, MPA
PP-293 (Rahimyar Khan-IX)

Ch Muhammad Omar Jaffar son of Ch Muhammad Jaffar Iqbal was born on August 13, 1982 at Rahim Yar Khan. He has obtained his education from UK. He completed GCSE in 1999 from St. Lawrence College, Ramsgate, UK; and obtained the degree of B.A.(Hons) in Business Economics and Finance in 2008 from London Metropolitan University, UK. By profession, he is businessman and a landlord. He has been elected as MPA in general elections 2013. He has visited Thailand, Singapore, UK, USA and France.

His father Ch. Jafar Iqbal has served as Senator (2009-15), MNA (1993-96), Deputy Speaker, National Assembly (1997-99), Advisor to Chief Minister Punjab (1989-90) and as Provincial Minister for Health (1990-93). His mother, Begum Ishrat Ashraf was MNA (1985-88, 2002-07, 2008-13) and has also functioned as Special Assistant to Prime Minister (1998-99). His sister Ms. Zeb Jaffar, was MPA during 2008-13 and is a sitting MNA.



Ms. Farah Manzoor Baloch
MPA W-328

Mrs. Farah Manzoor Khan wife of Mr. Imran Ashfaq was born on August 17, 1975 at Vehari. She is a dedicated political worker, who has been elected as MPA in general elections 2013 against one of the seats reserved for women. She is a Member of Women Parliamentary Caucus. Her mother, Mrs. Shahzadi Akhtar Butt remained Member, District Council Vehari during 2005-09.



Ms. Irum Hassan Bajwa
MPA W-344

Mrs Iram Hassan Bajwa wife of Mr Hassan Dawood Bajwa was born on May 7, 1980 in Lahore. She obtained the degree of M.A in Human Resource Management in 2005 from University of the Punjab, Lahore. A human resource manager by profession, she served in various private organizations during 2006-09. She has been elected as Member, Provincial Assembly of the Punjab in general elections 2013 against women reserved seat. Her uncle, Fayyaz Virk served as Nazim, Union Council No.75 during 2001-05; and also functioned as Advisor to Chief Minister on Agriculture during 2013.



Mr. Rafaqat Hussain Chaudhry
MPA PP-102 (Gujranwala-XII)

Ch Rafaqat Hussain son of Mr Muhammad Hussain was born on May 1, 1975 in Gujranwala. He obtained the degree of LL.B in 1999 from University of the Punjab, Lahore.

He is a lawyer by profession and has been elected as MPA in general elections 2013.

Ch Rafaqat Hussain is member of the Standing Committee on Home Affairs.



Mr. Ehsan Riaz Fatyana
MPA PP-58 (Faisalabad-VIII)

Mr Ehsan Riaz Fatyana son of Mr Riaz Khan Fatyana was born on December 15, 1987 in Lahore. He got his early education from Aitchison College, Lahore and obtained the degree of BBA (Hons) in 2011 from Lahore School of Economics, Lahore. He is an agriculturist, who has been elected as an independent Member, Provincial Assembly of the Punjab in general elections 2013. He has extensively travelled abroad. He belongs to a family having great political lineage. His father served as MPA for three consecutive terms (1988-90, 1990-93 and 1993-96) and also functioned as Advisor to Chief Minister and Minister for Education and Finance; and has also remained MNA for two consecutive terms (2002-07 and 2008-13) and functioned as Chairman, Standing Committee on Human Rights. His mother Ashifa Riaz Fatyana served as MPA (2002-07) and functioned as Minister for Women Development, Social Welfare & Human Rights; and his grandfather, Mian Afzal Wattoo remained MPA (1972-77) and functioned as Senior Minister for Labour, Communication & Works and Excise & Taxation. He also served as MNA (1977).



Haji Imran Zafar
MPA PP-111 (Gujrat-IV)

Haji Imran Zafar son of Haji Zafar Iqbal was born on November 10, 1973 at Gujrat and is an Intermediate. A businessman by profession, he was MPA during 2010-13 and functioned as Parliamentary Secretary for Anti Corruption Establishment during 2012-13.

He has returned to Punjab Assembly for the second consecutive term in general elections 2013. He has visited Saudi Arabia, UK, Norway, India, Germany, Italy and UAE.

His uncle, Haji Nasir Mehmood remained MPA during 2008-10.



Mr. Mannan Khan
MPA PP-134 (Narowal-III)

Rana Mannan Khan son of Mr Maqbool Ahmad was born on October 1, 1976 at Sialkot and graduated in 1996 from University of the Punjab, Lahore.

A businessman by profession, he has been elected as MPA in general elections 2013 and is serving as Member, Standing Committee on Special Education and as Member, Syndicate University of Gujrat.

He has travelled to Saudi Arabia, UAE and China.



Mr. Asif Mehmood
MPA PP-9 (Rawalpindi-IX)

Mr Asif Mehmood son of Mr Safdar Ali was born on August 14, 1978 in Rawalpindi. He graduated in 2011 from University of the Punjab, Lahore. He is a businessman by profession, who has been elected as Member, Provincial Assembly of the Punjab in general elections 2013.



Ms. Faiza Ahmed Malik
MPA W-362

Mrs Faiza Ahmed Malik wife of Mr Masood Akhtar Shaheedi was born on May 15, 1970 in Lahore and graduated in 1989 from Queen Mary College, Lahore. She has returned to Punjab Assembly for the third consecutive term in general elections 2013 against one of the seats reserved for women. She functioned as Parliamentary Secretary for Irrigation & Power (2009-11). She has visited UAE, UK and India. Her mother, Mrs. Abida Malik was a MNA during 1988-90; and her cousin, Mrs. Memoona Nabeel served as MPA during 2002-07.



Mr. Ramesh Singh Arora
MPA NM-368

Mr Ramesh Singh Arora son of Mr R.L. Arora was born on October 11, 1974 at Nankana Sahib. He obtained the degree of MBA in 2000. He has been elected as MPA in general elections 2013 against one of the seats reserved for Non-Muslims and is functioning as Chairman, Standing Committee on Commerce & Investment. He remained Member of National Commission for Minorities during 2011-13; and also served as General Secretary, Pakistan Sikh Gurdwara Parbhandak Committee during 2009-13; and as Chief Executive, Mojaz Foundation during 2008-13. He has a vast experience of Community Development. He has served in RSPS; and in World Bank funded programme namely Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund. He is the first Parliamentarian in Punjab Assembly who comes from Sikh Community after 1947. He has visited India, UAE, Europe, Bangladesh and USA.

Annexure 2: PYPC bylaws

Whereas the young members of the Provincial Assembly of the Punjab have joined hands and resolved to establish the Punjab Youth Parliamentary Caucus; to put their act together for protection of the rights of youth and adolescent of the Province; to work for the betterment of adolescent and youth of the Province; to secure their future by raising pressing issues of the adolescent and youth with respect to education, health, sports, jobs and their physical, skill building, socio-economic development; and to deal with all ancillary matters concerning the adolescent and youth;

The Punjab Youth Parliamentary Caucus, assembled in a meeting held on 28 December 2014 at Lahore within the precincts of the Provincial Assembly of the Punjab, unanimously resolves to make the following Bylaws:

1. Short title, application and commencement.– (1) These Bylaws may be cited as the Punjab Youth Parliamentary Caucus Bylaws 2014.
 - (2) These Bylaws shall apply to all young members of the Provincial Assembly of the Punjab who voluntarily join the Punjab Youth Parliamentary Caucus by signing the master copy of these Bylaws.
 - (3) These Bylaws shall come into force at once.
2. Definitions.– In these Bylaws:
 - (a) “Auditors” means three Members, who are not candidates for any other elected office of the Caucus, elected by the General Assembly by two-third majority of Members present and voting, for the remaining term of the Provincial Assembly to annually audit the accounts of the Caucus;
 - (b) “Caucus” mean the Punjab Youth Parliamentary Caucus consisting of the young members of the Provincial Assembly of the Punjab each one of whom, on the date of taking oath as member of the Provincial Assembly, was less than 45 years of age and voluntarily joined the Caucus by putting his or her signature at the end of the master copy of these Bylaws;
 - (c) “Election Committee” means three Members, who are not candidates for any other elected office of the Caucus, elected by the General Assembly by two-third majority of Members present and voting for the remaining term of the Provincial Assembly to hold election of various offices of the Caucus;
 - (d) “Chairperson” means the Chairperson of the Caucus;
 - (e) “Executive Committee” means the Executive Committee of the Caucus;
 - (f) “General Assembly” means the General Assembly of the Caucus consisting of all the Members of the Caucus;
 - (g) “Government” means Government of the Punjab;
 - (h) “Member” means a Member of the Caucus;
 - (i) “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Caucus;
 - (j) “Treasurer” means the Treasurer of the Caucus;
 - (k) “Vice Chairperson” means the Vice Chairperson of the Caucus; and
- (l) Adolescent and “youth” means every resident of the Punjab who is in the age group of 10 - 19 years and 15-29 years respectively.
3. Functions of the Caucus.– The Caucus shall:
 - (a) work for consensus building and agenda setting beyond and above party lines for adolescent and youth empowerment in the areas of education, health, sports, jobs and their physical, skills development, socio-economic development; and;
 - (b) initiate programs for capacity building of Members on key adolescent and youth empowerment issues;
 - (c) conduct research and analyses of issues concerning adolescent and youth and raise such issues in the Provincial Assembly of the Punjab and its committees through its Members;
 - (d) ensure Parliamentary oversight for the implementation of the Punjab Youth Policy 2012 and other adolescent and youth initiatives of the Government;
 - (e) suggest policy reforms and laws to the Government through resolutions and through debates in the Provincial Assembly of the

Punjab to resolving the most pressing issues of the adolescent and youth;

- (f) encourage exchange of views and information sharing on critical areas concerning adolescent and youth both nationally and internationally;
- (g) develop liaison and linkages with key state and civil society institutions and organizations working on welfare and empowerment of the adolescent and youth;
- (h) conduct analyses of the Bills introduced in the Provincial Assembly of the Punjab from adolescent and youth prospective and suggest amendments in the Bills through its Members who are members of the concerned Standing Committee;
- (i) recommend adaptation and implementation of the best international practices and other international commitments of Pakistan concerning adolescent and youth issues with respect to education, health, sports, jobs and their physical, socio-economic development;
- (j) suggest policy reforms for cross party, multi-sectoral and holistic development of adolescent and youth;
- (k) initiate policy reforms for the protection of rights of adolescent; and
- (l) perform any other function ancillary to any of the above functions or for the welfare and empowerment of the adolescent and youth.

4. Membership.– (1) A young member of the Provincial Assembly of the Punjab may become a Member of the Caucus by putting his or her signature at the end of the master copy of these Bylaws.

(2) A Member shall remain Member of the Caucus as long as the Member remains the member of the Provincial Assembly of the Punjab unless the Member resigns from membership by tendering the resignation in writing to the Chairperson.

(3) Subject to clause (1), membership of the Caucus shall be open to all young members of the Provincial Assembly of the Punjab and all eligible members of the Assembly shall be encouraged to join the Caucus irrespective of party or political affiliations.

5. Management of the Caucus.– (1) The Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and 11 member Executive Committee shall manage and administer the affairs of the Caucus under the general supervision of the General Assembly.

(2) The General Assembly shall elect the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer through majority vote of Members present and voting and members of Executive Committee through proportional representation.

(3) The term of office of the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and members of Executive Committee shall be two years unless the holder of office resigns earlier or ceases to be member of the Provincial Assembly of the Punjab, whichever is earlier.

(4) The Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer shall run the day to day affairs of the Caucus under the guidance of the Executive Committee.

(5) In case of vacancy in the office Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and any member of Executive Committee during the term of office, the General Assembly shall elect the office bearer for remainder of the term of predecessor of such office bearer.

6. Chairperson.– (1) The Chairperson shall:

- (a) be responsible for overall direction and management of the Caucus;
- (b) preside over meetings of the Executive Committee and General Assembly;
- (c) enforce the Bylaws and best Parliamentary practices in the meetings of the Executive Committee and General Assembly;
- (d) represent or nominate the members of the Caucus at any provincial, national or international fora;
- (e) appoint all committees of the Caucus other than the Executive Committee and Election Committee to achieve the purposes of the Caucus; and

(f) authorize incurring of expenditures from the funds of the Caucus and shall be co-signatory of cheques along with the Treasurer.

(2) Subject to the conditions as may be prescribed by the General Assembly, the Chairperson may, in an emergency, take an action which is not otherwise in the competence of the Chairperson and, within one month of taking of such action, submit a report of the action taken to the Executive Committee for approval.

7. Vice Chairperson.– The Vice Chairperson shall:

- (a) preside over meetings of the Executive Committee and General Assembly during the absence of the Chairperson;
- (b) assign duties and functions to Members for efficient performance of functions of the Caucus;
- (c) assist and advise the Chairperson in the performance of functions of the Chairperson; and
- (d) ensure enforcement of the Bylaws and best Parliamentary practices in the meetings of the Executive Committee and General Assembly through raising point of order in the meetings.

8. Secretary.– The Secretary shall:

- (a) keep the master copy of these bylaws in safe custody;
 - (b) be responsible for maintaining records of the proceedings of the General Assembly and the Executive Committee;
 - (b) issue notices and correspondence on behalf of the Caucus; and
 - (c) receive correspondence on behalf of the Caucus.
9. Treasurer.— The Treasurer shall:
- (a) maintain accounts of the Caucus and all the records of donations, endowment, gifts and contributions made to the Caucus;
 - (b) submit report of state of financial affairs of the Caucus at the end of each financial year to the General Assembly;
 - (c) prepare, present and get passed the annual budget of the Caucus from the General Assembly after approval from Executive Committee;
 - (d) ensure financial discipline in the affairs of the Caucus;
 - (e) ensure that expenditures are incurred in accordance with the approved annual budget and, in case of any deviation, get the revised or supplementary budget passed from the General Assembly;
 - (f) cooperate with the Auditors in the process of audit of accounts of the Caucus and make entire record available to the Auditors in order to enable them perform their functions;
 - (g) pre-audit all payments and shall be co-signatory of cheques along with the Chairperson; and
 - (h) unless exigency to be recorded in writing requires cash payment up to five thousand rupees, all payments shall be made through cross cheques or pay orders.
10. Meeting of the Executive Committee.— (1) The Executive Committee shall:
- (a) aid and advise the office bearers of the Caucus including the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer;
 - (b) discuss and advise the office bearers ways and means to achieve the objectives of the Caucus;
 - (c) oversee the performance of the functions of the Caucus; and
 - (d) resolve to call the meeting of the General Assembly to discuss any important issue concerning the Caucus.
- (2) The Secretary may summon the meeting of the Executive Committee after getting approval of the date, time and place of the meeting from the Chairperson and the Secretary shall summon the meeting of the Executive Committee if requisition and agenda of the meeting is submitted by at least seven members of the Executive Committee to meet within seven days from the date of receipt of the requisition.
- (3) The Executive Committee shall normally meet at least once during every session of the Provincial Assembly of the Punjab or as and when summoned by the Secretary under clause (2).
- (4) The Secretary shall send agenda of the meeting along with meeting notice and ensure electronic or physical communication of meeting notice and agenda to members of the Executive Committee not later than 24 hours prior to the scheduled meeting.
- (5) The Chairperson and, in his or her absence, the Vice Chairperson shall preside over the meeting.
- (6) Seven Members shall constitute quorum for a meeting and office bearers including the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer shall also be entitled to participate, vote and counted towards quorum of the meeting.
- (7) All decisions shall be made by simple majority and the Secretary shall record minutes of every meeting and issue the same after obtaining approval of the Chairperson or Vice Chairperson who presided over the meeting.
11. Meeting of the General Assembly.— (1) The General Assembly shall:
- (a) formulate or approve the principles, policies and plans governing the activities and operations of the Caucus;
 - (b) make and approve amendments in the Bylaws;
 - (c) constitute a committee, council and any other administrative or advisory body;
 - (d) create such posts as it may deem necessary and to approve appointments to such posts as it may specify;
 - (e) hold, control and administer the property, funds and resources of the Caucus and raise funds for the purposes of the Caucus;
 - (f) consider and pass through a resolution the annual report, plan of work, statement of accounts, annual and revised budget estimates;
 - (g) determine membership and annual fee;
 - (h) elect all the office bearers of the Caucus;
 - (i) call for and consider reports relating to the activities of the Caucus; and
 - (j) take all such initiatives as it may consider necessary or desirable for efficient and effective management and functioning of the

Caucus.

- (2) The Secretary may summon the meeting of the General Assembly after getting approval of the date, time and place of the meeting from the Chairperson and the Secretary shall summon the meeting of the General Assembly if requisition and agenda of the meeting is submitted by at least twelve Members to meet within fourteen days from the date of receipt of the requisition.
- (3) The General Assembly shall normally meet at least once during every six months or as and when summoned by the Secretary under clause (2).
- (4) The Secretary shall send agenda of the meeting along with meeting notice and ensure electronic or physical communication of meeting notice and agenda to members of the General Assembly not later than 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting.
- (5) The Chairperson and, in his or her absence, the Vice Chairperson shall preside over the meeting of the General Assembly.
- (6) Ten Members shall constitute quorum for a meeting of the General Assembly.
- (7) The decisions of the General Assembly shall be taken by consensus and, in case consensus is not reached, the decision shall be taken by simple majority of Members present and voting.
- (8) The Secretary shall record minutes of every meeting and issue the same after obtaining approval of the Chairperson or Vice Chairperson who presided over the meeting.
12. Office of the Caucus.– (1) The General Assembly may, by unanimous resolution, request the Speaker of the provincial Assembly of the Punjab to allocate sufficient and appropriate place for housing the secretariat and office of the Caucus.
 - (2) The Caucus shall cooperate and maintain close liaison with the secretariat of the Provincial Assembly of the Punjab.
13. Fees.– (1) The General Assembly may determine membership fee and annual subscription to be paid by a Member.
 - (2) If a Member fails to pay the annual subscription, such Member shall not be entitled to cast vote in any decision or election of the Caucus but shall not be precluded from attending meeting of the General Assembly.
14. Funds of Caucus.– The Caucus shall have a fund to which shall be credited all fee, subscriptions, grants of the Government or any national or international organization or by any person or authority and out of which shall be disbursed the grants and other expenditure to be made and incurred by the Caucus.
15. Budget and accounts.– (1) The budget of the Caucus shall be approved and its accounts shall be maintained in such manner as may be determined by the General Assembly.
 - (2) The General Assembly may approve the budget of the Caucus, appropriations of accounts of the Caucus and settle an audit para relating to the audit of the Caucus.
16. Travelling expenses.– If a meeting of the General Assembly or Executive Committee is summoned other than during the session of the Provincial of the Punjab, a Member attending the meeting shall be entitled to such traveling allowance as may be determined by the General Assembly while passing the annual budget of the Caucus.
17. Audit of accounts.– The Auditors shall annual audit the accounts of the Caucus and submit their report to the General Assembly in the form of recommendations, if any.
18. Elections.– (1) The Election Committee shall conduct and determine mode of election of all the office bearers of the Caucus and every decision of the Election Committee with respect to any election shall be final and shall not be called in question by any Member.
 - (2) If due to any reason, office of a member of Election Committee becomes vacant, the General Assembly shall, to the exclusion of any other business, elect the member of the Election Committee.
 - (3) In case of any vacancy of elected office of the Caucus, the Secretary shall inform the Election Committee and all the Members and election to fill such shall conduct in the next meeting of the General Assembly.
19. Amendment.– (1) The General Assembly may amend or alter these Bylaws through a resolution passed by two-third majority of Members present and voting in a meeting.
 - (2) The Secretary shall, as soon as possible, notify the amendment passed by the General Assembly by conveying authenticated copy of the amendment to the Secretary, Provincial Assembly of the Punjab.
20. Parliamentary norms and practices.– The Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Secretary shall ensure that all affairs of the Caucus including meetings of the General Assembly and Executive Committee shall be conducted in accordance with these Bylaws and where no such provision exists in these Bylaws, in accordance with the Parliamentary norms and practices of the Provincial Assembly of the Punjab.
21. Residuary matters.– (1) The Secretary certify a copy of these Bylaws and deposit the same with the Secretary, Provincial Assembly of the Punjab and likewise annually deposit an updated copy of the Bylaws including amendments, if any.

(2) A Member may with the permission of the General Assembly raise any matter as ex-agenda item and decision of the General Assembly on such agenda item shall be deemed as decision on a proper agenda item.

(3) In case no provision exists in these Bylaws and norms and practices of the Provincial Assembly of the Punjab, the decision shall be in the manner as may be determined by the Chairperson.

22. Transition and succession.– (1) These Bylaws shall continue to remain in force during continuation of the present Provincial Assembly of the Punjab and any asset or fund available with the Caucus shall be deposited as a trust with the secretariat of the Provincial Assembly of the Punjab to be paid to the Youth Parliamentary Caucus of the next Provincial Assembly.

(2) After the next general elections, the young members of the Provincial Assembly of the Punjab may, through a similar resolution, adapt or adopt these Bylaws and thereby become entitled to assets and funds left by the Caucus as trust with the secretariat of the Provincial Assembly of the Punjab.

This progress report offers an understanding of the support that young members of the Punjab Assembly are providing to youth and adolescents of the province under the nomenclature of Punjab Youth Parliamentary Caucus (PYPC). It compiles progress of the PYPC from end May 2014 to Dec 2015 including its inception and formulation with patronage from Minister for Education, Youth Affairs, Archaeology and Tourism, Mr. Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan.

Approval and implementation of the Punjab Youth Policy, 2012 enabled the Government of Punjab to enter into consolidating ventures for engaging youth in affairs of the province. Parliamentary and legislative support is one such area where young members of Punjab Assembly made a crucial intervention in the form of PYPC. It is the first of its kind forum in Pakistan. Its inception is based on the premise that debates in the assembly, legislative work and oversight functions hold great pertinence to show political will for youth empowerment. Bargad – Organization for Youth Development made this initiative possible by providing technical assistance to the Youth Affairs, Sports, Archaeology & Tourism Department, Government of the Punjab with support from United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and Heinrich Boll Stiftung (HBS) to form the all-parties PYPC.

The report highlights itinerary of issues, concerns and successes experienced by young members of the Punjab Assembly on youth empowerment. It has been drafted in chronological order, allowing the readers to clearly see how the PYPC has served youth and adolescents of the Punjab during its first eighteen years.

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