



AGENDA



5th – 8th JUNE

Venue:

Kohinoor Hall, Marriott Hotel (Islamabad)

The European Union's Special Incentive Arrangement for Sustainable Development and Good Governance (GSP) supports developing countries to reduce poverty and boost economic development through trade incentives. Beneficiary countries gain privileged access to the European Single Market of 450 million consumers at preferential rates (GSP) or zero duties (GSP+) for over 70% of all tariff lines. The GSP+ incentives are offered in return for the implementation of core international conventions in the area of human rights, labour rights, governance and environmental protection.

Pakistan was granted GSP+ status by the EU in January 2014 for the period of 2014-2023. The scheme allows Pakistan to export more than 78% of its products to the EU. The EU is Pakistan's second most important trading partner, accounting for 14.3% of Pakistan's total trade in 2020 and Pakistan's most important export destination (28% of Pakistan's total exports), bringing important foreign exchange into the country. Since acceding to the GSP+ scheme, the trade between the EU and Pakistan increased from 6.9 billion Euros in 2013 to 12.2 billion Euros in 2021.

GSP+ Week High-Level Consultations

Pakistan is currently undergoing its last review and assessment of the GSP+ under the current system. The resulting EU report will reflect on the trajectory of Pakistan over the last 10 years under GSP+. It's a final opportunity for Pakistan to demonstrate its efforts towards meeting the benchmarks to which it has committed itself.

For the new GSP+ system, which will be in force globally as of 2024, Pakistan, like any other countries seeking to continue benefiting from the preferential access to the EU market, will have to re-apply. As part of the re-application, beneficiary countries will have to submit a work-plan, spelling out how they intend to make further progress in implementing the relevant international conventions. To be successful, the work plan needs to be ambitious, but also realistic, based on the track record of the past and with a strong buy-in from relevant institutions, political actors and civil society.

The purpose of the "GSP+ week" is to give another, final push to make progress that could be reflected in the last EU report under the 2014-2023 GSP+ system. More importantly, we seek to launch a national debate among government, judiciary, civil society and other stakeholders in view of the work-plan that Pakistan will have to submit to maintain the benefits of GSP+ in the future.

The event is independently initiated and organised by Justice Project Pakistan (JPP) and Parliamentarians Commission for Human Rights (PCHR).



DAY 01
Monday 5th June

Pakistan's Implementation of the Convention Against Torture

1-3 PM

Enactment of The Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention and Punishment) Act in 2022 was the culmination of years of effort to criminalise torture in Pakistan. The discussion will focus on the salient features of the Act and formulate strategies to ensure its effective implementation, in line with the UNCAT.

GSP Week Opening Remarks: Dr. Ewa Synowiec, Principal Advisor at the Directorate General for Trade of the European Commission

Keynote Address: Senator Azam Nazeer Tarrar, Federal Minister for Law & Justice

Panelists

1. **Sarah Belal**, Executive Director Justice Project Pakistan
2. **Barrister Ahmed Pansota**, Advocate
3. **Saqib Sultan**, Director Anti-Corruption Wing, Federal Investigation Agency

Moderator: Shafique Chaudhry, Executive Director Parliamentarian's Commission for Human Rights



Pakistan's Compliance with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women

5-7 PM

While Pakistan has taken significant strides by passing legislation protecting the rights of women, full and effective implementation of these laws remain to be seen. The discussion will highlight barriers to implementation, and offer strategic recommendations with a view towards full compliance with the CEDAW.

Keynote Address: The Hon'ble Mr. Justice Anwaar Hussain, Lahore High Court

Panelists

1. **Fauzia Viqar**, Federal Ombudsperson for Protection Against Harassment at Workplace
2. **Aamir Zulfiqar Khan**, Inspector General Police
3. **Zainab Malik**, Programme Manager, Hague Institute for Innovation of Law
4. **Representative** from the National Commission on the Status of Women

Moderator: Valerie Khan, Child Rights Activist



DAY 02

Tuesday 6th June

Pakistan's Compliance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child

1-3 PM

Significant policy and legislative efforts have been made in recent years to improve the situation of child rights in Pakistan. The discussion will highlight areas where continued reform is needed, and focus on devising strategies to ensure that the rights of children in Pakistan are upheld in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Keynote Address: Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada,
Federal Minister for Human Rights

Panelists

1. **Mehnaz Akbar Aziz**, Convener Parliamentary Caucus on Child Rights
2. **Ayesha Raza**, Chairperson National Commission on the Rights of the Child
3. **Valerie Khan**, Child Rights Activist

Moderator: Miqdad Mehdi, Legal Expert on Child Rights



Pakistan's Compliance with ILO Labour Rights Conventions

5-7 PM

It is crucial that labour rights stakeholders in Pakistan are fully informed of the obligations contained within ILO conventions and are committed to their implementation. The discussion brings together stakeholders from the business community, civil society and the Government of Pakistan in order to work towards aligning labour law and practices with international standards.

Keynote Address: TBD

Panelists

1. **Chaudhry Yasin**, Pakistan Workers Federation
2. **Zulfiqar Shah**, Pakistan Institute of Labour Education & Research
3. **Afzal Butt**, President Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists
4. **Rabia Razzaque**, Senior Programme Officer, ILO

Moderator: Ahmed Khawar, Sustainable Development Policy Institute



DAY 03

Wednesday 7th June

Pakistan's Compliance with Conventions on Environmental Protection & Climate Change

1-3 PM

The recent monsoon floods and devastating environmental catastrophes in Pakistan have highlighted the dire necessity of an improved environmental protection policy, in line with international conventions on climate change. The discussion will focus on the heightened need to strengthen institutions for the implementation of international conventions.

Keynote Address: Sherry Rehman, Federal Minister for Climate Change

Panelists

1. **Erum Sattar**, Environmental and Water Policy Expert
2. **Ilhan Niaz**, Professor, Quaid e Azam University
3. **Rina Saeed**, Chairperson, Islamabad Wildlife Management Board & Member, Pakistan Climate Change Council

Moderator: Rafay Alam, Environmental Lawyer





DAY 04

Thursday 8th June

The GSP+ & Pakistan's National Security Policy

1-3 PM

Under Pakistan's National Security Policy (NSP) 2022, human and economic security are seen as essential in upholding and shaping the country's hard security. The discussion will focus on the intrinsic link between international benchmarks on human rights under the GSP+ scheme and the changing approach towards national security in Pakistan, with a focus on strengthening implementation of the NSP.

Keynote Address: Fionnuala Ní Aoláin, UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights & Counter-Terrorism

Panelists

1. **Engr. Khurram Dastgir-Khan**, Federal Minister for Energy
2. **Moeed Yusuf**, Director South Asia, USIP
3. **Prof. Dr. Farhan Siddiqui**, School of Politics and International Relations, Quaid e Azam University

Moderator: Ejaz Haider, Journalist



Pakistan's Compliance with Article 6: the Right to Life (ICCPR)

5-7 PM

Pakistan's use of capital punishment in recent years has seen positive developments including no executions since 2019, jurisprudential safeguards for the mentally ill and juveniles, and legislation limiting the number of capital crimes. The discussion will aim to devise a plan of action to ensure continued reform and fulfilment of Pakistan's obligations to uphold the right to life, enshrined in Article 6 of the ICCPR.

Keynote Address: The Hon'ble Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, Supreme Court of Pakistan

Panelists

1. **Senator Walid Iqbal**, Chairperson Senate Standing Committee on Human Rights
2. **Dr. Qibla Ayaz**, Chairman, Council of Islamic Ideology
3. **Christine Chung**, South Asia Team Lead, UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
4. **Saroop Ijaz**, Senior Counsel Asia Division, Human Rights Watch

Moderator: Sarah Belal, Executive Director JPP

GSP Week Closing Remarks: H.E Ms. Riina Kionka

AFTERNOON SESSIONS

1:00 pm Registration

1:10 pm Keynote Address

1:30 pm Panel Discussion

2:00 pm Interactive Dialogue

3:00 pm Refreshments

EVENING SESSIONS

5:00 pm Registration

5:10 pm Keynote Address

5:30 pm Panel Discussion

6:00 pm Interactive Dialogue

7:00 pm Refreshments





Justice Project Pakistan (JPP), is an award winning legal action non-government organization dedicated to representing the most vulnerable Pakistani prisoners facing the harshest punishments at home and abroad. Our work combines strategic litigation, fierce domestic and international public and policy advocacy campaigns, and building the capacity of stakeholders to bring systemic reform to the criminal justice system in Pakistan.

www.jpp.org.pk
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