

warrants during arrests and restricted access to lawyers in prison. They also reported derogatory remarks and questioning of women's political activities, which amounts to Gender stereotyping and insensitivity by police officials which is against constitutional provisions for women's full participation in public life.

Women prisoners expressed satisfaction with the conditions and facilities in prison. Specifically, those arrested after May 9th incidents had no complaints either of maltreatment, abuse or disrespect by prison staff. Assessment however, revealed deficiency in the existing complaint management system within the prison, compromising impartiality and effectiveness. Women prisoners were also not adequately informed about their rights or the Pakistan Prison Rules and complained of inadequate sanitation conditions.

FOSPAH has presented a set of recommendations to resolve the identified issues in light of these findings. These include, ensuring that female officials carry out arrests of women, expediting access to legal counsel where procedures permit and providing access to legal counsel for women who cannot afford it, setting up efficient complaint-handling procedures in both the police and prison systems, providing access to Prisons Rules, and, putting in place gender-sensitive training programmes for police and prison staff. FOSPAH will follow up to monitor harassment of women in prisons or by police, under the The Protection Against Harassment of Women at the Workplace, 2010 (Amendment 2022).

The Implementation of these recommendations will contribute towards creating a more equitable and humane environment for women prisoners where rights, well-being and dignity of women is upheld within the criminal justice system. FOSPAH called for regular oversight by the Prison related Implementation Commission established under directions of the Islamabad High Court and convened by the Ministry of Human Rights. This will ensure prisoners are dealt with and treated in conformity with the obligations of the State of Pakistan pursuant to ratification of international conventions.

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