**The sad state of affairs for women in Pakistan**

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What’s happening in Pakistan is heart wrenching. Fear is evident among women from all walks of life which means a backtrack from the fundamental principle of democracy as enshrined in Article 15, Freedom of movement in the 1973 constitution.

The wounds of the Sahiwal rape incident, the Motorway rape, the brutal killing of an Anglo-Pakistani girl in DHA Lahore were not healed yet; now this unfortunate incident and that too in our capital Islamabad. What message are we giving to the world? I am speechless and swinging back and forth between numbness, hopelessness, fear and rage. We advocate for the rights of Kashmiris, Palestinians but have we ever thought about what’s happening in our beloved land of the pure?

Harassment is common, it’s not considered as an evil in our society. In fact, it’s a gossip story in our drawing rooms. Boys harassing girls outside colleges, schools, public transports, social media and restaurants seems like business as usual. These are not one-off incidents, they have become routine news for us to hear, read and then forget. The femicide taking place in front of our eyes has left the women in our country afraid to travel during the day, let alone night. This is the fear we have instilled in them.

[Pakistan to host second trilateral Speakers’ Conference in 2022](https://nation.com.pk/29-Jul-2021/pakistan-to-host-second-trilateral-speakers-conference-in-2022)

Why are we afraid to talk about rapes and harassment publicly? Why am I not seeing road blockages, protests from Karachi to Khyber? Where are the politicians and religious leaders? Why has this matter not been taken up on the floor of the national assembly, why has a session not been called yet?

Everyday we scream about the misogyny and injustice and unfortunately Noor Mukadam’s murder exposes toxic misogyny in Pakistan. Yet due to a lack of accountability and punishment, nothing changes. Is this helping the cause for which many laws and acts have been put in place? The answer is no.

The UAE and now Saudi Arabia, as Islamic countries, are shining examples for us to follow in how women are contributing in their respective fields. It’s high time we need to define a roadmap to ensure our women feel protected. The risks they face have to be mitigated. A notion of tolerance has to be developed among our men, a sense of respect and care. When we are open to change, we find blessings in life’s curves. The change is for our betterment, it’s for our peace of mind. A collective approach is needed to ensure women’s rights and safety. This approach must be evident across the executive, judiciary and legislature and especially the media for awareness. This is what our stakeholders must focus on.

[PM Imran Khan likely to visit Lahore on July 30](https://nation.com.pk/29-Jul-2021/pm-imran-khan-likely-to-visit-lahore-on-july-30)

Prime Minister Imran Khan has acted as a dilettante, his recent statement in an interview depicts his mindset and that trickle down effect has already been witnessed in the then CCPO Lahore’s statement in the Motorway rape incident. The Prime Minister has all the time in the world to plant trees, enjoy Nathiagali ,condole his friends’ death but no women protection plan. You cannot change what you do by the way you think; you can change the way you think by what you do. You cannot develop a habit by thinking about it everyday, only by doing it daily. A complete transformation and realist approach is needed. All we need is a vision, a sheer commitment and dedication towards this cause. As the matter of Noor Mukadam murder is subjudice, we can only expect a punishment for the accused; it should be remembered for times to come. This case’s end result should not be like the Raymond Davis or Shahzeb murders.