

Christian Solidarity Worldwide

Thank you, Madame Chair. Since the creation of Pakistan in 1947, minorities have significantly contributed to shaping our judiciary, defence services, education, health care, arts, sports, and [inaudible] our public institution. Their role has been integral to the nation's progress. In Pakistan, the contribution of religious minorities to our society can not be fully realized or recognized without addressing the deep structural issues within our educational system. Despite constitutional guarantees of equality, curriculum policies, including the national curriculum of Pakistan, centralized religious content in subjects not related to religion, while school textbooks across language, social sciences, and Pakistani studies present a narrow religious narrative. They glorify the majority faith, while marginalizing others, erase historical contributions of minority communities, and at times promote stereotypes that fuel discrimination. Such content influences young minds, normalizes societal prejudices, undermines minorities' sense of belonging, and impacts Muslim students by denying them exposure to diversity and inclusion, that rejects the national narrative. To truly recognize the contribution of minorities to Pakistan, we must submit the following recommendations: first, remove the discriminatory and exclusionary content from textbooks and ensure representation of minority communities and their role in nation-building. Number two, reform curriculum framework to align with national and international rights commitments and further train teachers, and textbook and curriculum developers in diversity inclusion and minority rights. An educational system grounded in equality, respect, and pluralism is the foundation for an inclusive Pakistan. Recognizing minority rights begins with teaching our children the full and honest history of who we are as a nation.