

Aurat March Lahore Charter of Demands 2025:

FEMINIST HISTORY

Aurat March Lahore and Women's Action Forum Lahore will jointly march on 12 February 2025 – to commemorate the National Women's Day of Pakistan. We demand that the State must urgently:

Deliver Gender Justice

1. End the erasure of women, religious, ethnic, and gender minorities, as well as political dissidents, from public life. As a first step, we demand that people who resisted patriarchy and state oppression be honoured in our educational curricula, museums and archives, without sanitising their causes;
2. Effectively implement existing laws, such as the Punjab Protection of Women against Violence Act, 2016, with a commitment to survivor-centric, restorative justice;
3. Ensure the constitution of independent sexual harassment inquiry committees in workplaces. Authorise the Ombudsperson to directly investigate in the absence of such mechanisms;
4. End forced conversions and forced marriages by criminalizing their practice and enacting comprehensive legislation that addresses the social, economic and political factors that perpetuate them;
5. Revise family laws for all religious minorities across the country to address outdated and regressive provisions, in consultation with the communities. Ensure that family courts are set up in Gilgit-Baltistan like the rest of the country;
6. End discrimination and violence against transgender, khawaja sira, and gender-diverse people. Strengthen and implement the Transgender Persons Protection Act, 2018, with the right to gender self-determination intact;
7. Guarantee the right to education for all girls, including those in conflict-affected regions;

Ensure Freedom of Speech and Dissent

8. End enforced disappearances, return all forcibly disappeared persons, and ensure accountability through transparent investigations. Guarantee that all detentions adhere to constitutional due process. End the harassment of families and activists advocating against enforced disappearances;
9. Decriminalise defamation. Repeal the Punjab Defamation Act, 2024 and anti-protest laws, including Section 144, which infringe on the right to peaceful assembly and free speech;
10. End the censorship of free expression through firewalls and surveillance technologies. Repeal the amendment to the Pakistan Electronic Crimes Act, 2016, and end expansion of Anti-Terrorism Act, 1997;
11. End the militarisation, moral policing and surveillance of campuses in the name of security. Restore student unions across the country to ensure democratic engagement and meaningful student representation in anti-harassment committees;

Deliver Climate Justice

12. Ensure clean and safe air for all. Move beyond stop-gap measures to comprehensively tackle smog by investing in safe public transport, protecting trees and green areas and closing dirty industries;
13. Recognise climate-related displacement and migration as a public emergency and ensure safe housing for all. Immediately cease projects that threaten food security by repurposing agricultural land, such as the Ravi Riverfront Development Project, and the Cholistan Canal Project which is detrimental to the Indus delta ecosystem and to local farmers;

Deliver Economic Justice

14. End IMF-mandated austerity measures that divert crucial investment from public services and welfare institutions. Instead, ensure a universal living wage for all workers, with effective accountability mechanisms for employers who fail to comply.