



A Project of Bright Future Society

Annual Report  
“Minorities Rights Conference”  
Topic: Constitutional Rights of Minorities  
&  
Responsibilities of The State of Pakistan”  
on 12th February 2024 at Falatti’s Hotel Lahore

The Honorable Chief Justice Lahore Mr. Muhammad Ameer Bhatti  
was the Chief Guest of the Conference



**Organized by:**

**Implementation Minority Rights Forum Pakistan**

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# Constitutional Rights of the Minorities and the Responsibilities of the State of Pakistan

On February 12, 2024, a vital conference on Minorities' Rights was held at a Flattie hotel in Lahore. The event, organized by the Implementation Minorities Right Forum (IMRF) in partnership with Praise TV, was themed “Constitutional Rights of Minorities and Responsibilities of the State of Pakistan.” The Chief Justice of the Lahore High Court, Muhammad Ameer Bhatti, attended as the chief guest.

Prominent speakers included

- Mr. Samuel Payara, Chairman IMRF
- Muhammad Ameer Bhatti, Honorable Chief Justice Lahore High Court
- The Most Rev Dr. Azad Marshall, Moderator Church of Pakistan
- Pastor Shahzad Siddique, Chairman Praise TV
- Peter Jacob, Executive Director of the Center for Social Justice
- Mr. Pervez Masih,
- Adnan Shamim Bhatti, President of the Christian Lawyer’s Association of Pakistan.

This conference represents a significant step towards recognizing and tackling the challenges faced by minorities in Pakistan. It highlights the need for effective implementation of constitutional rights and the state’s responsibility in ensuring justice and equality for all citizens.



Mr. Samuel Payara Chairman Implementation Minority Rights Forum warmly welcomed the Honorable Chief Justice of Lahore High Court, Muhammad Ameer Bhatti





### **Aims & Objective. IMRF**

1. It is the responsibility of the IMRF to raise voice for the rights of the minorities at every Forum through Seminars, Conferences, Electronic & Print media, and Social Media as well so that lack of awareness and ignorance about the fundamental rights might be abolished and the status of the religious minorities deserves may be implemented and executed.
2. Coordinator shall be deployed in all provinces to make sure the awareness program to be organized by the IMRF so that the awareness shall be provided to the Government officials and the Masses as well.
3. It is also the responsibility of the IMRF to constitute delegates to conduct the meeting with the Government Officials both on the Federal and Provincial Level.
4. It is further the duty of the IMRF that it shall keep on working for the implementation of the vulnerable Judgment of the Supreme Court of Pakistan and in case of any failure, IMRF shall approach the Full Bench of The Honorable Supreme Court of Pakistan till its implementation into its true letter and spirit, More over this bench is constituted that it shall hear the complaints of the minorities and IMRF shall take all these applications and complaints and shall place before the Honorable Bench of The Supreme Court of Pakistan as directed in the judgment.
5. The IMRF will provide free legal aid to the deprived sections of minorities.
6. The IMRF shall announce and conduct an award ceremony “Justice Alvin Robert Cornelius” annually.

### **Importance of Rights of Minorities**

Religion has played an important role in human history, and faith has influenced the minds and actions of individuals, societies and nations down the ages. By freedom of religion and belief is meant the right of a person to follow a doctrine or belief system which, in the view of those who profess it, provides spiritual satisfaction. However, it is impossible to define the term ‘religion’ in rigid terms. The freedom of religion must then be construed liberally to include freedom of conscience, thought, expression, belief and faith. Freedom, individual autonomy and rationality characterize liberal democracies and the individual freedoms thus flowing from the freedom of religion must not be curtailed by attributing an interpretation of the right to religious belief and practice exclusively as a community-based freedom. The freedom of religion and conscience has been protected in several treaties and declaration<sup>4</sup>. Article 18 of the United Nations Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966 provides as follows: -

“Everyone shall have the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. This right shall include freedom to have or adopt a religion or belief of his choice, and freedom, either individually or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief or belief in worship, observance, practice and teaching.”

## United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Minorities

Every country has national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities within its borders. Persons belonging to minorities aspire to participate in the public, social, economic, cultural and religious life of the societies in which they live, on an equal footing with the rest of the population. Twenty years ago, UN Member States adopted unanimously the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities, an acknowledgment that a gap existed in minority rights protection. This gap persists today. The Minority Rights Declaration established that States have an obligation to acknowledge and promote the rights of minorities to enjoy their own cultures and identities, to profess and practice their own religions and use their own languages. The Declaration ushered in a new era for minority rights. It sets essential standards for protection and offers guidance to States as they seek to realize the human rights.



## Standing in the Honor of National Anthem of Pakistan

The conference started with the National Anthem of Pakistan all participants stood for the National Anthem.



## Recitations of the Holy Quran and the Holy Bible

The conference was attended by the people from all four provinces, a large number of Advocates and renowned people from Civil Society.



Welcome Address by  
Mr. Samuel Payara Chairman IMRF





## Achievement of IMRF

01. In 2013, the martyrs of the All-Saints Church blast were given financial assistance of Rs.500,000/- each and the injured Rs.200,000/- each.
02. The Forum also legislated (THE KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA REHABILITATION OF MINORITIES (VICTIMS OF TERRORISM) ENDOWMENT FUND ACT, 2020) the Endowment Fund was for the widows, orphans, and disabled of the martyrs in the tragedy All Saints Church Peshawar. The amount which the government allocated was 27 to 28 crores.
03. The forum was able to get the direction from the Apex Court's to the Sindh Government for payment of Rs.500,000/- per person to the families of martyrs of the 2013 All-Saints Church Peshawar blast and Rs.200,000/- per person to the injured. Sindh Government did the payments.
04. The Supreme Court of Pakistan took suo-moto notice upon the request of IMRF, on the incident of the Quetta Church bombing in 2017, in which, according to the order of the Supreme Court, Rs.2.64 crore, & Rs.72 lakh, was given by the Federal Government of Pakistan and, with the efforts of this forum, on the order of the Supreme Court, Rs.2.42 crore was given by the Provincial Government of Balochistan to the martyrs and injured of the tragedy. In addition, Rs 13.4 million to the Church Administration for the construction and repair of the Beth-el-Memorial Methodist Church in Quetta, this was affected by the bomb blast.
05. The forum helped getting financial aid from Government of Baluchistan of Rs 42 lacs to the martyrs and injured people of Zaman Park, Quetta.
06. The Forum helped the victims of Target Killing in Isa Nagri Church Quetta to get Rs 35 lakh from the government of Baluchistan.
07. The Forum requested the Federal Government and the Provincial Governments to ensure the implementation of the security plan for the places of worship of minorities in Pakistan.



08. The IMRF is the applicant in the Supreme Court of Pakistan regarding the tragic accident of the burning of the Christian Couple (Shama Shahzad and Shahzad Masih) in Kot Radha Kishan, District Kasur.
09. The Supreme Court of Pakistan took suo moto notice upon the request of IMRF from victim Christian family living in Gujjar Khan District of Rawalpindi.
10. The IMRF is applicant in the Supreme Court of Pakistan regarding the Registration of Christian Marriages in NADRA. The forum requested the Supreme Court of Pakistan to take notice to Punjab and Baluchistan Government regarding the registration of Marriages (Nikah) of Christians and ensured new registrations. Supreme Court took notice and passed the directions.
11. The IMRF requested the Supreme Court of Pakistan regarding re-construction of the historic Balmiki temple of Hindus, Neela Gumbad Lahore & Jain community's historic Jain Temple, Jain Temple Chowk, Old Anarkali Lahore. Supreme Court passed the directions to Re-construct the Jain Temple and Balmiki Temple. Jain Temple is completed and Balmiki Temple work is in progress.
12. The Forum is working on the Christian Marriage Act.
13. IMRF requested the Supreme Court of Pakistan to take notice regarding the incident of Sheikhupura “rape of an innocent Christian girl who is a daughter of a kiln worker. Supreme Court took the notice and passed the directions to the Government of Punjab. The IMRF arranged and bore all the expenses of Marriage of the victim girl.
14. The Supreme Court of Pakistan made a historic decision to implement the word ‘Masihi’, written, read and called in place of the word ‘Isai’ upon the request of IMRF.
15. The IMRF filled a CMA regarding the National Minority Culture Award in Supreme Court of Pakistan and the Court passed the directions to the Federal and the Provincials Governments to submit the report regarding National Minority Culture Award.

16. The Forum filed the CMA in the Supreme Court of Pakistan regarding the rights of Sanitary Workers. The Supreme Court took a notice and passed the directions to the Federal and the Provincial Governments to make legislations for the safety and health of the sanitary workers and provide complete safety measures. After directions by the Supreme Court, KPK government passed the Bill Occupational Safety and Health Act, 2021.

17. The IMRF ensured the implementation of the directions of Supreme Court of Pakistan regarding 5% job quota in PIMS Hospital Islamabad which is reserved for the minority employees.

18. The forum got vacated the illegal occupation of the historic Church, established in Murree District of Rawalpindi by influential people. Also, the reverence of the place of worship of the Christians was restored by reclaiming the sacred land of the Church from the clutches of all street vendors like paan cigarette and butchers.

19. On, 16th of August 2023 the Forum submitted a petition to the Chief Justice of Pakistan for the protection of the lives and property of the Sikhs and for the restoration of their fundamental and constitutional rights, on which notices were issued to the Federal and all Provincial Governments. On the orders of the Supreme Court of Pakistan, the delegation of this forum has also been able to get free the majority of the innocent Christians arrested in the tragedy of Jaranwala by meeting with the concerned Tehsil Administration, District Administration and Faisalabad Division Administration and the Punjab Government. The forum also submitted a CMA on the victims of the tragedy. As a result, the Supreme Court of Pakistan took the strict notice of the Government of Punjab and sought a report from them.

20. The Forum is not only working for the strict and complete implementation of the Judgment of Supreme Court of Pakistan for minorities dated June 19, 2014, in addition, the consultative wing organizes large conferences and seminars at different times to elicit public opinion and create awareness on the strategies to be implemented to achieve basic human constitutional rights and justice for minorities. The forum organized the annual conference of the Chief Justice of Pakistan Mr. A.R. Cornelius in which people from all walks of life are invited and the present Chief Justice of Pakistan is the chief guest.

21. The Forum organized a major conference on minority rights and religious freedom at the Presidency followed by a conference on International Minority Rights and Religious Freedom at the Governor's House Lahore.
22. The Forum also organizes Seminars on Right to Information Act every year for the provision of rights at all levels, in which people are trained to know about their rights.
23. The forum also organizes meetings with all the high officials of Pakistan regarding the implementation of the rights of minorities and in these meetings, the religious and social ill-treatment meted out to the minorities by the high officials are addressed. In the light of the historic decision given by the Supreme Court of Pakistan on June 19, 2014, efforts are being made day and night to implement the said decision to fulfill the requirements of justice for the human and constitutional rights of the minorities.
24. Sanitary workers of Hyderabad-Sindh have been paid six months' blocked salary by the efforts of IMRF after meeting with the Chief Secretary of Sindh.
25. Sanitary workers who went into the gutter during work and died due to the excess of gas. There was no compensation for them. The forum approved compensation for them from the Sindh Government.
26. The forum demanded Sindh Government to install cameras in all minority worship places in Sindh.
27. The IMRF demands and meetings with the Government of Sindh to implement the directions of Supreme Court of Pakistan regarding legislation for "The Health and Safety of Sanitary Workers in Sindh." And National Minority Culture Award and salary of Sanitary Workers.
28. Forum helped in the case of Gordon College Rawalpindi which was pending in the Supreme Court of Pakistan for a long time. The Sialkot Mission and Gordon College's decision was held in favor of the nation.

## **IMRF Working on the Incident of JARANWALA-Punjab**

The IMRF, wielding its influence and commitment to justice, actively pursued justice in the Supreme Court of Pakistan regarding the JARANWALA Incident. Fearless in its approach, the IMRF filed an application, urging the Chief Justice of Pakistan to take immediate notice. Responding to the urgency and gravity of the situation, the Chief Justice swiftly took notice, assembling a formidable Bench of three esteemed Members. Under the leadership of the distinguished Mr. Justice Ejaz ul Hasan, the Bench issued commanding directions to the Government of Punjab, demanding a comprehensive and detailed report on the Jaranwala incident.



- [https://twitter.com/BOLNETWORK/status/1700136370038325592t=nAYey34\\_YtkBMLwmn27Yqg&s=08](https://twitter.com/BOLNETWORK/status/1700136370038325592t=nAYey34_YtkBMLwmn27Yqg&s=08)
- <https://thefridaytimes.com/08-Sep-2023/jaranwala-case-sc-directs-sargodha-dc-to-submit-copy-of-gestapo-agreement-with-tlp>
- <https://arynews.tv/jaranwala-incident-supreme-court-to-hear-petition-tomorrow/amp/>
- <https://arynews.tv/jaranwala-incident-supreme-court-to-hear-petition-tomorrow/amp/>
- <https://www.geo.tv/amp/508824-sc-bench-to-take-up-jaranwala-rampage-case-tomorrow>
- <https://dunyanews.tv/en/Pakistan/753410-Supreme-Court-takes-up-Jaranwala-arson,-rampage-case-Friday->

**Report published in the Pakistan Leading Newspaper The Daily DAWN and Others on December 9,2023 ,Swift trial of Jaranwala case demanded - Newspaper - DAWN.COM - ISLAMABAD:**

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1796385>

The Chairman Implementation Minority Rights Forum, Samuel Makson Payara, on Friday moved a fresh application before the Supreme Court seeking early fixation of Aug 16 tragic Jaranwala incident case in which 26 churches and over a dozen homes belonging to the Christian community were damaged.

A two-page application reminded that at the last hearing on Sept 8, a three-judge Supreme Court Bench, comprising Justice Ijazul Ahsan, Justice Munib Akhtar, and Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhel, had ordered the re-listing of the case after two weeks, but despite the lapse of three months, the case has not yet been fixed.

The petition explains that an early hearing has become necessary since it has come to the notice of the applicant that the reconstruction and rebuilding work of churches have been brought to an abrupt halt.

Despite the gravity of the situation, there appears to be a lack of attention and action from the relevant government authorities, the application feared, adding that this cessation of the renovation work has resulted in a state of stagnation, leaving the damaged churches in an incomplete and precarious condition.

## **Fresh application before Supreme Court of Pakistan alleges government inaction**

The cessation of renovation efforts for various dilapidated churches is not only a troubling development, but it also underscores a profound lack of responsiveness from the relevant government departments."

The application stated that during the Aug 16 Jaranwala incident, a number of houses of the Christians were completely burnt, along with the churches. It added a large number of affected persons still have not received compensation, contrary to the government's announcement.

Moreover, the police have released many of the culprits who were arrested after the incident, and recoveries were also made from them, the application regretted.

At the last hearing on Sept 8, the Supreme Court was told that churches, properties, and residencies of citizens belonging to the Christian community were attacked, and that Rs2 million was announced to repair the damaged properties. Besides, some affected families have also not been compensated

Then the Court directed to compensate the victim families expeditiously and repair the damaged churches on priority basis.

The Chairman had also regretted that 38 members of the Christian community were arrested during the police crackdown after the incident, though cases against 36 had been discharged on the direction of the Lahore High Court.

The IMRF monitors all the legal cases of Jaranwala-Punjab. It holds meetings with high officials regarding the Jaranwala cases and highlights the complaints of the people of Jaranwala to the concerned authorities.



Speech by Rt. Rev. Dr. Azad Marshal

Honorable Chief Justice,

It is with profound respect and gratitude that we gather here today, under your esteemed patronage, to deliberate on the pivotal subject of the **CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS OF MINORITIES IN PAKISTAN**.

Your presence as our chief guest not only honors us but also echoes the judiciary's commitment to upholding justice and equality for all, especially the representatives of the minority communities who seek your wisdom and support in their quest for equity and recognition.

We commence by invoking the visionary ideals of our nation's founders, notably Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, who, on the eve of Pakistan's birth, articulated an inclusive vision for our homeland.

His address on August 11, before the first Constituent Assembly, laid the foundation for a Pakistan where every citizen, irrespective of their faith, was to enjoy equal rights and freedom. This ethos of pluralism and tolerance forms the bedrock of our national identity and serves as a guiding light for our collective endeavors towards fostering a just society.

Despite the constitutional guarantees that promise equality and protection for all citizens, the implementation of these rights remains a challenge. The gap between the lofty ideals enshrined in our Constitution and the on-ground realities faced by religious minorities is a cause for concern. Instances of discrimination, persecution, and violence against minorities are not just a violation of individual rights but a blemish on the very fabric of our democracy.

In this context, the role of the judiciary becomes paramount. Your Lordship, the minority communities of Pakistan look to you and your esteemed colleagues for justice and protection. The judiciary's conciliatory and a judicatory role is a beacon of hope for those who have been wronged and marginalized. Your interventions and directives can pave the way for not only addressing individual grievances but also for systemic reforms that ensure the protection and promotion of minority rights.



My words are not just a reflection of my personal sentiments but echoes the collective voice of the minority community in Pakistan. We are confronted with issues that range from religious persecution to socio-economic discrimination. The recent surge in violence

against religious places and communities, the misuse of blasphemy laws, and the challenges related to forced conversions and child marriages are pressing concerns that demand urgent attention and action.

Your Lordship, as we stand here, seeking justice and advocating for the rights of the marginalized, we are reminded of the divine injunctions that place justice at the heart of societal harmony and peace. The wisdom of an old Testament prophet Micah reminds us that justice, tempered with mercy and humility, is the cornerstone of a righteous and harmonious society.

We feel it is the time to reiterate for the protection and promotion of minority rights. By upholding the principles of justice, equality, and inclusivity, we can fulfill the vision of our founding fathers and ensure that Pakistan is a homeland where every citizen, regardless of their faith or ethnicity, can live with dignity and peace.

Thank you, Honorable Chief Justice, for lending us your ears and for your unwavering commitment to justice. Your leadership and empathy towards the plight of minorities are invaluable as we strive towards a more equitable and just Pakistan.

In conclusion. Let us all reaffirm our commitment to upholding the constitutional rights of minorities and fulfil the responsibilities of the State towards them. By embracing diversity, safeguarding equality and promoting inclusion, we can truly honor the vision of our Founding Father, Quaid-E-Azam, Mohammad Ali Jinnah and build a brighter future for all Pakistanis.

Thank you,  
Pakistan Zindabad



Speech By  
Honorable Chief Justice Lahore High Court  
Muhammad Ameer Bhatti

**Assalamu Alaikum and a heartfelt welcome to today's distinguished gathering. It is truly an honor to stand before you to speak on a topic of immense significance**

"Minority Rights as Enshrined in the Constitution of Pakistan and the Responsibility of the State."

Esteemed Guests, Respected Members of the Implementation of Minority Rights Forum and Respected Supporters of Minority Rights, ladies and gentlemen !

I extend my warmest greetings to each one of you on this momentous occasion. As the chief guest, I am deeply privileged to join hands with such dedicated individuals who are actively engaged in the crucial pursuit of safeguarding minority rights.

Our gathering today reflects not just a shared commitment but a collective responsibility to translate the principles laid out in our Constitution into tangible actions. The protection of minority rights is not merely a legal obligation; it is a moral imperative and a duty we owe to our fellow citizens. The tenets of equality, protection of minority rights, and religious freedom were highlighted by Pakistan's founder, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. During his August 11, 1947, speech to the Pakistani Constituent Assembly, he made a few noteworthy remarks concerning minorities. He outlined the ideals that should guide the newly formed country's government in this speech. **"You are free; you are free to go to your temples. You are free to go to your mosques or to any other places of worship in this State of Pakistan. You may belong to any religion, caste or creed—that has nothing to do with the business of the State."**

Our cherished nation, Pakistan, was established on the fundamental ideals of justice, equality, and freedom for every citizen, irrespective of their religious or ethnic affiliations. Within the diverse fabric of Pakistan, the rights of minorities are crucial for fostering a harmonious coexistence in our society. Today's gathering offers us a chance to contemplate the constitutional principles that support these rights and recognize the central role played by the state in meeting its responsibilities to its citizens.

**Ladies and Gentlemen:** Embarking on our exploration of minority rights, we begin with the cornerstone of our legal framework; the Constitution of Pakistan. This constitutional guarantee not only upholds the dignity of every individual but also firmly asserts the equality of all citizens, irrespective of their faith. It encapsulates the visionary ideals of a society marked by justice and exclusivity. The protection of minority rights is a crucial and delicate matter in Pakistan, where diverse religious, ethnic, and linguistic groups coexist. Various constitutional provisions, including Article 20 (freedom of religion), Article 25 (equality of citizens), Article 36 (protection of minorities), and Article 37 (promotion of social justice and eradication of social evils), explicitly ensure the rights and freedoms of minorities.

However, the effective implementation of these provisions faces challenges rooted in discrimination, intolerance, violence, and extremism. Consequently, the role of the judiciary, particularly the Supreme Court of Pakistan, emerges as pivotal in upholding and enforcing the rights of minorities in our nation. In the case of *Al-Jehad Trust v. Federation of Pakistan* (PLD 1996 SC 324), the Supreme Court of Pakistan issued a landmark judgment on the matter of the representation of minorities in the superior judiciary. The Court held that the Constitution of Pakistan does not bar the appointment of non-Muslims as judges of the Supreme Court or the High Courts, and that the principle of merit should be the sole criterion for such appointments. The Court also directed the government to take steps to ensure the adequate representation of minorities in the judicial service of Pakistan.

The responsibility of the state, as outlined in the Constitution, is paramount. The state must ensure the protection and promotion of minority rights. Laws such as the Protection of the Rights of Minorities Act underscore the commitment to safeguarding these rights. The judiciary, particularly the Supreme Court, through another landmark judgments, has reinforced the constitutional guarantees of minority rights. Notably, in the Justice Dorab Patel case (*Asma Jilani vs. The Government of the Punjab*; PLD 1972 SC 139) the Supreme Court of Pakistan declared martial law imposed by General Yahya Khan in 1969 as illegal and unconstitutional, and restored democratic rule in Pakistan. The Court also affirmed the rights of minorities, such as the Bengalis, who were subjected to discrimination and oppression by the military regime. Similarly, in the case of *Suo Moto Case No.1 of 2014* (PLD 2014 SC 699), the Supreme Court of Pakistan took suo moto notice of the attacks on the places of worship of the Christian and Hindu communities in Lahore and Larkana, respectively. The Court ordered the federal and provincial governments to take immediate measures to protect the lives, property, and dignity of the minorities, and to ensure the implementation of the National Action Plan for Human Rights.

The Court also directed the government to form a council for the protection of minority rights and religious harmony, and to frame policy recommendations that would enhance the protection of minority rights and encourage religious tolerance in Pakistan.

### **Esteemed Guests**

It is crucial to recognize that our commitment to minority rights is not only a legal obligation but also a moral and religious duty. As a Muslim majority country, the majority that is, us Muslims, must understand and practice the teachings of tolerance and harmony that our religion mandates. In Surah Al-Baqarah, verse 256, the Quran eloquently states, **"There is no compulsion in religion."**

This fundamental principle underscores the freedom of choice in matters of faith



## **Distinguished Audience**

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said,

'Whoever kills a Mu'ahid (a person who is granted the pledge of protection by the Muslims) shall not smell the fragrance of Paradise though its fragrance can be smelt at a distance of forty years (of traveling).' (Sahih al-Bukhari).

This hadith encapsulates the profound Islamic principle of safeguarding the rights and lives of those living under the protection of an Islamic state.

Esteemed gathering,

It is however unfortunate that despite what Islam teaches us, we forget why Pakistan was created in the first place: it was a safe haven for minorities in India. Fearing for their safety, the Muslims of the subcontinent joined hands and fought for an independent homeland. Pakistan came into being, a secular homeland, where all people would feel safe. However, due to our political trajectory, the message was lost.

As I stand before you here today, let me remind us of all of what our minority communities have done for us. When the day came to decide whether West Punjab would go to India or Pakistan, S.P.Singha, the speaker of the assembly and a Christian had the casting vote as the votes were split evenly between India and Pakistan. He voted in favour of Pakistan, broke the tie, chanted “long live Pakistan” and this is how the land we are standing in today, where I am delivering this speech is in Pakistan. Another important person was Justice Cornelius who was instrumental in the development of our legal system.

Furthermore, the Sikhs in Pakistan provided invaluable contributions within Punjabi literature and the formation of Punjabi culture. People like Anil Daplat and Danish Kaneria, are Hindu Pakistanis who have played a crucial role in our cricket. There are many other minority communities that I have been unable to mention today but have helped contribute to Pakistan's success.

So when incidents that target minorities happen, we not only mar our identity but we subvert our humanity. If we want Quaid's vision to come to life, if we want Pakistan to prosper, if we want to see a better future for our children and grandchildren, we must respect, love, and celebrate the diversity that binds us. We must look towardsour neighbor as a Pakistani first. Our similarities are greater than our differences. We must focus on those. Let us pick up the pieces and rebuild our beautiful nation in the right direction.

Mandela said,

“It is easy to break down and destroy. The heroes are those who make peace and build.”

I leave you with a question,

Who do you want to be: The builder or destructor of Pakistan?

Thank you.



## Speech By:

Mr. Peter Jacob  
Executive Director of the Center for Social Justice  
&  
Advocate Adnan Shamim Bhatti  
President Christian Lawyers Association Pakistan



Peter Jacob elaborated on the constitutional rights of minorities, highlighting the lack of implementation and the pressure on missionary schools regarding Islamic studies.



Adnan Shamim Bhatti expressed gratitude towards IMRF for organizing such a timely Conference.

## Award Ceremony

Honorable Chief Justice Muhammad Ameer Bhatti presenting shields to volunteers, recognizing their efforts in defending minority rights.



**Advocate Kashif Nemat  
Head Legal Team IMRF**



**Advocate Adnan Shamim Bhatti  
President CLAP**



**Advocate Muzzamil Ahmed Baig**



**Advocate Niaz Aamir**

## Award Ceremony

Honorable Chief Justice Muhammad Ameer Bhatti presenting shields to volunteers, recognizing their efforts in defending minority rights.



**Advocate Liaquat John**



**Advocate Imran Randhawa**



**Advocate Rubaiqa Niamat**



**Volunteer Mishal Shams**

## Award Ceremony

Honorable Chief Justice Muhammad Ameer Bhatti presenting shields to volunteers, recognizing their efforts in defending minority rights.



**Mr. Pervaiz Emmanuel**  
Advisor IMRF



**Rev. Fr. Khalid Mukhtar**



**Souvenir Presented to  
Honorable Chief Justice Lahore High Court  
Muhammad Ameer Bhatti  
by  
IMRF**



## MEDIA COVERAGE

