

# Violence Against Women in Pakistan: A qualitative review of statistics for 2009

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## About the Author

Dr. Rakhshinda Perveen, an Ashoka fellow for her pioneering work against dowry violence and recipient of PTV Excellence Award for her debut production GENDER WATCH in 1999 that initiated gender discourse in Pakistani perspectives; she has over 18 years of diverse experience in training, action research, development management, documentary film making and advocacy on issues of public health, gender and social communication. Her work in Pakistan has existed under many guises with the underlying thread of challenging the elitist consensus on various forms of patriarchy. Dr Rakhshinda is Founder Director of creativeanger by rakhshi - a social enterprise, committed to courage for intellectual risks and functions as consultancy & civic advocacy organization; and of sinf surat (faces of gender), a think channel to promote dialogue on the neglected faces of gender inequity in policies, society and development strategies.

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Dedicated to the victims and survivors  
of violence against women  
in the words of Faiz Ahmed Faiz

*“The wall has grown all black, upto the circling roof.  
Roads are empty, travellers all gone. Once again  
My night begins to converse with its loneliness;  
My visitor I feel has come once again.  
Henna stains one palm, blood wets another;  
One eye poisons, the other cures”.*



## **Acknowledgement**

Aurat Foundation owes its first and foremost acknowledgement to the print media of Pakistan which includes almost all newspapers mainstream, local, regional published in Urdu, English, Sindhi and Pashto languages from various locations, for providing us the information on incidents of violence against women; and also for highlighting our reports whenever these are released. We also acknowledge services of different institutions, e.g. women centres, police departments, medico legal surgeons and NGOs, who provided statistics on VAW; and on a number of occasion actual help to minimise sufferings of survivors of violence against women.

The commitment and activism of the members of Violence against Women Watch Groups in Islamabad, Lahore, Karachi, Peshawar and Quetta is the main strength of this initiative; and although their activism is driven by their own commitment to the women's rights ideology and needs no appreciation, we feel that without their help the effort would have been impossible. Similarly, we would like to acknowledge the support rendered by women legislators from across political parties and women ministers in all four provinces and Islamabad to address the situation arising from violence against women through law and policy reform, and sometimes through administrative actions.



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“2009 has been another tragic year for women rights in Pakistan. Many cases have been reported, in which women were abducted, assaulted, raped, murdered, forced to marriage or traded to resolve disputes. According to Aurat Foundation, a non-governmental organization working for women empowerment in Pakistan, between January and June last year, a total of 4,514 incidents of violence against women were reported. Victims, if they dare reporting these facts, have to face police obstruction and societal pressure. If some of these facts can be imputed to feudal societies and tribal traditions, the most worrying aspect of women rights violations is that some practices and ideas are simply entrenched in the mindsets.

Sexual harassment, sexual assaults, rape and gang-rape are also a typical example of the low status of women in society. Last August, for instance, a woman was waiting for a Lahore-bound bus at the Pindi bypass stop in Punjab when seven policemen picked her up in an official van on the pretext of investigation. They took her to a nearby hotel and gang-raped her. Near Sukkur, Sindh, last July, a 10-year old girl who had gone to a nearby grocery store was found lying unconscious hours later by her family. A man had kidnapped her and subjected her to sexual assaults.

Last September, two people allegedly chopped off the nose and an ear of a woman over “honor” in Marghzar Colony of Hanjarwal, Punjab. One of the perpetrators was believed to be the victim's brother-in-law. “Honor” is also the reason why Khalida Bibi, a little girl living in Bahadur village in the North-West Frontier Province (NWFP) was strangled allegedly by her parents and uncle. In October, Sakina Khan Langarial allegedly hacked to death her younger sister, Iram Khan Langarial, because she suspected that she had “loose morals”. From January to May 2009 only, 90 women are believed to have been killed in the name of honor in the Punjab, seven in the NWFP. However, it can be assumed that all the cases are not reported, especially if we consider that most of the perpetrators are members of the family immediate and extended like a husband, a brother or a cousin. In some cases, women are killed by their husband suspecting extra-marital relations while in others, they are killed for having chosen their husband rather than accepting the one their family chose for them. Sometimes, “honor” can also be an excuse for a cold-blooded murder. Far from being an old tribal tradition remaining only in remote rural areas, these barbarian practices are spreading in urban centers.”

**Excerpts from An Article by the Asian Human Rights Commission, Written by *Julia Lemétayer* (downloaded from web: [pakteahouse.wordpress.com/.../pakistan-constant-violence-against-women-in-2009/](http://pakteahouse.wordpress.com/.../pakistan-constant-violence-against-women-in-2009/) -**





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## List of Acronyms

AF	Aurat Foundation
AIDS	Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome
CBO	Community Based Organization
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
FATA	Federally Administered Tribal Areas
GBV	Gender-based violence
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
ICT	Islamabad Capital Territory
IEC	Information and Education Campaign
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IPV	Intimate Partner Violence
KP	Khyber Pakhtunkhawa
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
PDM-VAW	Policy and Data Monitor on Violence against Women
PATA	Provincially Administered Tribal Areas
UN	United Nations
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
WHO	World Health Organisation

## Glossary

**Kala-kali** is a Balochi and Seraiki expression for culturally condoned honor killing of a man or a woman charged with maintaining an illicit relationship.

**Karo-kari** is a Sindhi expression for pre-meditated 'honour' killings of a condemned man or woman for illicit relations to restore lost respect to the family.

**Ghairat** can be loosely translated as honor but is considered a chivalrous adherence to tradition and culture in the context of social relations.

**Swara** is a Pashto word denoting a child marriage custom in tribal areas of Pakistan and Afghanistan. This custom is tied to blood feuds among the different tribes and clans where the young girls are forcibly married to the members of different clans in order to resolve the feuds.

**Vanni** is a child marriage custom in tribal areas of Pakistan. Besides tribal areas, it is widely followed in Punjab in Pakistan. This custom is tied to blood feuds among the different tribes and clans where the young girls are forcibly married to the members of different clans in order to resolve the feuds. The Vani could be avoided if the clan of the girl agrees to pay money called *Deet* (دیت). Otherwise the young bride may spend her life paying for the crime of her male relatives.

**Watta Satta** is a tribal custom in Pakistan of exchanging brides between two families. At the time of marriage, both families trade brides. That is, both families must have a daughter and a son and be willing to betroth them to a daughter and son of the other family. For example, in order for one to marry off his son, he must also have a daughter to marry off in return to the same family.



## Preface

It gives us no pleasure at Aurat Foundation to present this qualitative review of statistics for Violence Against Women in Pakistan during 2009. The reported statistics are nothing but a true copy, only larger in size, of an earlier report in this series, prepared under our national programme of “Policy and Data Monitor on VAW” in 2008. This national study is a compilation of the four regional reports put together by our four provincial offices, in addition to the report from Islamabad covering ICT.

This report has been written by Dr. Rakhshinda Perveen, who has years of experience in research, training and advocacy on issues of public health, gender and social communication. Documentary film making, literature and poetry are her passion, identity and strength. Her description and analysis of the data on violence against women has provided soul to the body of statistics, as well as, insight into the issues of violence by explaining how patriarchy is getting more and more repressive and cruel with each passing day.

There is no 'disclaimer' in the beginning of this report because we own every word and expression Dr. Rakhshinda Perveen wrote and voiced in this study that includes everything except this 'preface' and 'acknowledgement'; and we will stand by it.

One purpose in collecting this data and its dissemination is to continue reminding decision-makers and stakeholders of the gravity of the VAW situation. Hopefully, this will help them realize the urgency to undertake concerted efforts at all levels to combat and eliminate gender-based violence in Pakistan.

We believe that all such efforts must include strong and effective administrative, political and legislative actions in addition to raising social awareness jointly with citizen groups and the media to create and ensure '**zero tolerance for violence against women**' in society; both in the rural as well as our urban areas.

Some of these efforts have recently resulted into the landmark legislation on prohibition and penalizing sexual harassment of women at workplace. This, indeed, is a great achievement, and all those involved in this effort deserve appreciation, particularly the civil society coalition “*Aasha*”, and women parliamentarians, notably, Ms. Sherry Rehman, under whose ministerial tenure in 2008, the Bill received support from the federal cabinet. Later, the process of taking forward the Bill was actively supported by Ms. Shehnaz Wazir Ali, Advisor to the Prime Minister on Social Sector, eventually enabling it to reach the final destination of enactment early in 2010.

The contribution of similar efforts by Aurat Foundation and other women's rights

organisations and committed activists had already helped in steering the process of an alternative draft bill of civil society on domestic violence (DVB) in 2008-2009, and eventual adoption of a private member bill on domestic violence by the National Assembly in August 2009. This bill was moved by a distinguished parliamentarian, Ms. Yasmeen Rehman, who is presently the Advisor, Ministry of Women's Development. The bill moved by her and passed by the National Assembly, unfortunately, lapsed in the Senate for not being taken up in required 90 days.

Two similar bills, submitted by Ms. Sherry Rehman and Ms. Mehnaz Rafi, in the previous National Assembly in 2004 and 2005, got also lapsed. It could be said that the efforts for positive and effective legislation on domestic violence have entered its seventh year. May we remind our political elite that it takes minutes for them to pass an ordinary legislation?

The present DVB has now returned to the National Assembly and has been handed over to a 'Mediation Committee'. We have learnt that this committee has met twice to look into the contents of the bill. We call upon the Mediation Committee of the Parliament to deliberate upon the bill with a view to removing some serious flaws in the bill, already pointed out by Aurat Foundation in consultation with friends in civil society and legal fraternity; and realize, as soon as possible, an effective law putting an end to gender-based domestic violence in Pakistan.

The provisions relating to 'honour' crimes, enacted in 2004, need also to be strengthened to give teeth to the law by making the 'honour' crime a non-compoundable offence; and eliminating the waiver of *qisas*, currently available in the law to the potential perpetrators that actually encourages them to commit the crime and then get away without being punished.

Since, acid throwing attacks on women have seen a substantial increase in 2009, we also call upon the government, Ministry of Women's Development and women parliamentarians to act urgently to introduce and enhance penal provisions through legislative action in order to eliminate the incidence of such shameful crimes.

Similar efforts and initiatives, as mentioned above, have also led to commemorating 16 days of activism against gender-based violence with more dedication and zeal in 2009 by Aurat Foundation and Violence Against Women Watch Groups in Islamabad, Lahore, Karachi, Peshawar and Quetta, who used this data for advocacy and lobbying with political party leaders, legislators and policy makers.

We hope that this study might provide further milestones for advocacy programs targeting legislators and legislation. It could also bring to the fore an urgent need to integrate domestic violence concerns in our policy articulations. Aurat Foundation believes that this report and



similar research studies could open up new perspectives to view domestic violence issues. The consequence for policy makers both in the parliaments and in government offices must be to look at these forms of VAW in a more holistic manner.

In the end, I would like to express my thanks for the staff of PDM-VAW for their extraordinary effort in gathering the data and compiling their reports; and the Trocaire, our partners in this initiative, for their invaluable support.

**Naeem Mirza**  
Chief Operating Officer  
**Aurat Foundation**  
Islamabad

June, 2010



## Executive Summary

Aurat Foundation has been working on a broad variety of innovative and exemplary projects to prevent violence against women, in all the four provinces of Pakistan. This work places a strong emphasis on addressing the structural causes of gender-based violence: sexual, physical and psychological violence against women and girls is not a natural condition, nor a simple outcome of difficult social and economic circumstances. Rather, gender-based violence is a consequence of the unequal power balance between men and women and a reflection of the dominant gender-norms prevalent in our society.

The “Policy and Data Monitor on Violence against Women” project of Aurat Foundation undertook the process of data-collection, analysis and dissemination to highlight VAW issues. The objective is an eventual elimination of these horrific crimes from the society. Aurat Foundation is undertaking a number of advocacy, policy and law reforms for enforcement measures in collaboration with other like-minded civil society organizations, groups and committed activists.

By sharing this study, we would like to contribute to a national learning process, hoping that our experiences will stimulate and encourage other institutions to intensify their efforts in violence prevention on different levels and across various sectors.

The reported statistics are nothing but a true copy, only larger in size, of an earlier report (2008) in this series, prepared under our national programme of “Policy and Data Monitor on VAW”.

Apart from the dates, little else has changed overtime. Women are suffering from the same crimes of violence committed against them over and over again. The apathy of the political elite is the same. The lack of understanding on the part of the women parliamentarians is the same. If there has been any change, it is in the level of cruelty shown to women during the year under review. Earlier women were first killed and then buried. Now they are being buried alive. Earlier the women were kidnapped and shot to death, this year they are not only kidnapped but also thrown before dogs prior to being killed. Of course, the other change is in the number cases of VAW that have increased substantially!

One positive difference sustaining hope, is the manifest addition to cases being reported by women. A bold and vocal media has been the key to this development. The weak has learnt once a case is reported, help would come. The *waderas*, chiefs, *chaudhrys* and *khans* must also have learned no matter what they do, their crime will become visible to the people and they will have to pay for it one day.

A lot more women now appear to understand as to what is the violence against them. They

know that violence is the direct or indirect act of omission or conduct that make suffer physical, sexual or mental abuse be it through deceit, seduction, threat or harassment. Coercion or intimidation, punishment or humiliation that deny or undermine their human dignity, sexual self-determination, physical, mental or moral integrity, security of person, self-respect or physical and mental capacities, are all but forms of violence against them.

Women in Pakistan suffer from the unfounded notions of honour for men who deny them their human rights. Men control their movement and dictate patterns of behavior whether it be a father, husband or a brother.

All five offices of the Aurat Foundation collected the statistics on VAW in Pakistan during the 2009 calendar year from January to December. Not only all the four provinces Punjab, Sindh, Khyber-Pakhtunkhawa and Balochistan were covered but data was collected for Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) as well.

The analysis of statistical records and surveys presented in this study shows that violence against women in its differing forms is a nationwide phenomenon, which cuts across cultures, provinces, and social and age groups. This report argues that the root causes of violence against women are dominant gender norms and the unequal power balance between men and women.

Aurat Foundation has collected statistics on cases of Violence Against Women (VAW) between January and December last year. A total of 8,548 incidents of violence against women were reported in the print media across Pakistan. Victims are in always in a quandary: if they dare report violence, they invariably face police obstruction and societal pressure.

During the year 2009, some 245 women were killed in the name of 'honor' in the Punjab, 14 in the Khyber Pakhtunkhawa, 59 in Baluchistan and an unbelievable 284 in the province of Sindh.

However, it can be safely assumed that all such cases are not reported since perpetrators are mostly family members immediate and extended like a husband, a brother or a cousin. In some cases, women are killed by their spouses suspecting extra-marital relations while in others, they are killed for having chosen their husband rather than accepting the one their family chose for them. Often, 'honor' can also be an excuse for a cold-blooded murder.

The greatest number of 'honor' killings is committed in the “karo-kari” or “kala-kali” tradition. Karo or kala (black man) and kari or kali (black woman) are terms for adulterer and adulteress. A man is entitled to kill his wife and her alleged lover if he declares her “kari” or “kali”.

The rule of tradition is often more powerful than the rule of law. Despite the fact that *Jirgas* are illegal in Pakistan, it is an ugly twist that *Jirgas* claim to dispense justice in the name of culture despite Islam prioritizing rule of law over tradition but the practice seldom reflects that fact. The state has been found helpless in shutting down these victimizing 'courts' to the manifest disadvantage of women in Pakistan.

Besides murders and 'honor' killings, women in Pakistan continue to face many other types of physical violence in their everyday lives. Although the most common one is domestic violence, yet it goes unreported most of the time. Statistics for 2009 show that there were only 608 registered cases of domestic violence reported across the country. This is up by 116% over the last year manifesting a welcome shift in positive reporting of domestic violence. However, one look at the total murder and 'honor' data is sufficient to know that it is still grossly under-reported.

Women who are killed by their husbands every day are also beaten up and tortured regularly. Since the crime of murder is the most serious one under law, it is often difficult to hide. A total of 1988 murders and 'honor' killings during 2009 is proof enough that domestic violence is not reported as often as it takes place. A total of 608 cases of domestic violence surfaced across the country showing Punjab taking the lead with 271 reports. The greatest incident based on demography, however, was reported from the Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province with 163 cases reported by women during the past year.

Since domestic violence is rather common in the country, the increased reporting manifests a positive change thanks to civil society activism and state support through positive initiatives protecting women who refuse to continue suffering.

Yet, the situation is not at all comfortable for women who continue to pay a heavy price simply because of their powerlessness. There has also been an extremely worrisome increase in trends of abductions and kidnappings, sexual harassment, sexual assaults, rape and gang-rape and acid throwing across Pakistan during 2009. Abductions were up by 11.38% with 1987 reported cases. This also reflects that rape and gang-rape cases might also be severely under-reported to avoid social stigma attached in our country. The average was higher than 2008 by 19.28% with 928 cases but seen in tandem with the 1987 cases of abductions, the tradition of under-reporting is clear.

The worrying trend of increase in incidents is a clear proof of the low status of women in the Pakistani society. Women are considered the property of their households owned by the men. Minor girls are suffering the most. Traditions treat them like merchandise and many are traded as peace offerings in arranged marriages (*swara*) or in resolution of a dispute, ordered by a *Jirga* (*vani*). Child marriages amongst children and girls being married to adults are a regular feature in many parts of Pakistan.

Victims of violence not only suffer brutal denials of their personal rights but insult is routinely added to their injury by a callous society. The violence that women and girls suffer from is thus not only physical, but also societal. It is not only overt but (and mostly) occult. One example of invisible form of injustice against women is their much visible under-representation in Pakistan workforce and public services. In Karachi, women constitute a mere 14 per cent of the judges from the lowest to the higher tiers. The difficulties that some women face at their work places are symptomatic of this structural violence.

The Sindh High Court has already banned Jirgas, but they are still manifestly too powerful to be checked effectively. Deep structural changes must be pursued. A better representation of women in the state and public offices has already begun that process but it has a long way to go before men with a particular mindset could let go of their hold on power. Reforms in the judiciary and the police are essential and necessary to restore a semblance of law and justice in the country for the sake of a civil and peaceful society. Impunity to criminals must end ensuring that perpetrators are fairly penalized for their excesses.

It is strongly underlined that in order to prevent gender-based violence, it is essential to address gender stereotypes and the relationship between the two sexes. Therefore, working with men and boys is equally important as supporting women and girls.

This publication argues that there is considerable scope for action at all levels of the policy process. However, greater efforts, empathetic strategies and more resources need to be harnessed in order to adequately address the sheer scale and complex spectrum of the problems related to GBV and VAW.

### **1.1. Methodology:**

All five offices of the Aurat Foundation collected the statistics on VAW in Pakistan during the 2009 calendar year from January to December. Not only all the four provinces Punjab, Sindh, Khyber-Pakhtunkhawa (KP) and Balochistan were covered but data was collected for Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) as well. Quarterly reports followed incidents and trends. These are compiled hereunder

this national report is an effort to organize all the data collected into a comprehensive volume. All the five AF offices have also recently released their respective geographically defined data compilations in their respective cities.

The data presented in this annual report has been collected from different sources. The main sources were daily newspapers in Urdu and English published from different parts of the provinces and ICT. In the provinces, regional press has also been carefully monitored. Cases have been collected from the print media as well as from state institutions like the police, hospitals, government shelter homes. Thus a majority of cases of VAW are 'reported cases'

and mostly relay episodes of only 'physical' violence or abuses against women. Social, psychological, cultural and economic dimensions of VAW are, therefore, understandably not reflected in this data.

The cases collected from government-run or private shelter homes and crisis centers mostly relate to offences of domestic violence that women do not report to police for several reasons. These include constraints on mobility and lack of support in the family. The label of 'shame' attached to these crimes or the refusal by the police to recognize them as 'offences' most of the time these are considered a 'private affair' of the family also goes a long way in discouraging women from making formal complaints for justice and redressal.

For the present study, the incidents of violence reported in 114 districts 35 in Punjab; 23 in Sindh; 26 in KP; 29 in Balochistan and the ICT were monitored for data gathering. Random Sampling techniques were deployed to select newspapers for data sourcing. English, Urdu and regional language newspapers were all included to cover maximum districts across the country. Data from medico legal surgeons was regularly secured to circumvent some of the limitations in relying solely on printed media reports. This effort was further strengthened with regular data collection from all police departments and shelter homes for women in the areas covered by this study. The study period was one year starting from January 01 and ending on the 31<sup>st</sup> of December.

Tabulation of statistics was undertaken using custom-designed software and databases. Reporting formats were designed to be comprehensive including detailed description of offences and motives. Status of First Information Report (FIR) recording was included in tabulation categories.

Data analysis intends to summarize observations in a manner yielding answers to research questions. For the qualitative analysis of data simple percentage and frequency distribution method has been used.

Many limitations were imposed on our data collection and analysis since data is based on reported cases only. Therefore, not much information is available about the victims and abusers beyond what has been formally reported. Also, the data does not cover unreported violence against women incidents anywhere in Pakistan. Another key missing data element are the age figures of victims and survivors in cases of VAW. The relationship between victim and offender and motives behind offences are also mostly missing in reported cases.

Other limitations faced by the study teams arose out of the security situation in some districts of KP and Balochistan that made access to data on cases of VAW difficult and in some cases, impossible. It is also noteworthy that cases on domestic violence are often not reported. This is primarily because there are no laws or social mechanisms in place for redressal. Well-entrenched patriarchal structures at all levels of society and governance also lead to largely

insufficient and sometimes total absence of data on the denial of women's fundamental right to life and dignity in the domestic sphere. Absence of penal laws covering domestic violence also hampers recourse to justice for victims and survivors of cases of domestic violence.

Not only those strong feudal and conservative lobbies resist and block positive legislation on crucial women's right issues, many socio-economic factors, especially poverty, are aggravating the situation of violence against women. Coupled with an extremely poor state of law-enforcement and inherent weaknesses in our justice sector further compound these problems. This is also the key encouragement to informal dispute resolution mechanisms such as '*jirgas*' and '*panchayats*' that are inherently patriarchal and anti-women.

Since collection of data irrespective of the fact of how very comprehensive and valid the methods alone cannot achieve the realization of women's human rights, dissemination becomes key to success. Increasing and initiating the awareness process among low-educated women that constitute more than 95% of our rural women indeed has the potential to realize positive change.



## Section One

### **Context: State, Society and History**

The Islamic republic of Pakistan is located in the patriarchal belt of Southern Asia, bordering the Arabian Sea, between India on the east and Iran and Afghanistan on the west and China in the north.

Pakistan inherited the Indus Valley civilization when it came into being with the Partition of India in 1947. Dating back 5000 years, the Indus culture remains one of the oldest and strongest in world history. It comfortably fused with the migrating Indo-Aryan peoples. The successive invasions in subsequent centuries from the Persians, Greeks, Scythians, Arabs, Afghans, and Turks brought Islam but the culture never left its peaceful identity.

From the unified India under the Mughal Empire in the 16th and 17th centuries to the days of the British that came to dominate the region in the 18th century, there has been a remarkable continuity of the cultural fabric. However, the separation in 1947 of British India into the Muslim state of Pakistan and largely Hindu India was never satisfactorily resolved leading to an era of violence that has seen violence rise in our society. Build up of armed forces and the eventual nuclearization were topped with the outbreak of Jihadi violence in neighboring Afghanistan.

One major consequence has been the country acquiring the role of a transit area for Afghan drugs, including heroin, opium, morphine, and hashish, bound for Iran, the Gulf States, Africa, Asia and the western markets. A high incidence of financial crimes related to drug trafficking, terrorism, corruption, and smuggling has increased social insecurity.

The exclusion of women from activities, in education in particular, has an effect on all spheres of national development. Global researches have repeatedly demonstrated that women's participation in education and other social activities, including various economic activities, can play a significant role to reduce child malnutrition and poverty. The Gender Gap Index 2008 shows large gaps in South Asia particularly Pakistan, which has the 87th biggest gap among 90 countries, proving a correlation between food insecurity and gender inequality.

The society in Pakistan is experiencing globalization and modernization not due to increased investments on social development but mainly due to electronic media influx. However, this

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<sup>1</sup> National Plan of Action (NPA) for Women has set out 12 areas of concern and establishes a set of priority actions to help achieve the agenda for the empowerment of women in Pakistan. The NPA aims to facilitate women's participation in all spheres of life besides ensuring protection of women's rights within the family and the society.

all seems selective and disproportionate as the patterns and forms of violence against women and girls irrespective of class and geography are disturbing and indicate deteriorating moral fabric.

The elimination of VAW is a priority of the Pakistani Government. Eliminating discrimination against women, including VAW, is one of the gender policy objectives of the state in Pakistan recognizing that violence is a key factor preventing women from exercising their rights and achieving social and economic equality.

The United Nations General Assembly defines VAW as “any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or mental harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.” Hence, VAW collectively refers to violent acts that are “primarily or exclusively committed against women”, says the United Nations. It is similar to a hate crime. Gender not only identifies a VAW victim but is also a primary motive. The 1993 United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of VAW also noted that VAW might be perpetrated by assailants of gender, family members and even the "State" itself.

The World Health Organization (WHO) says VAW puts “an undue burden on health care services with women who have suffered violence being more likely to need health services and at higher cost, compared to women who have not suffered violence”. Studies have linked poor treatment of women and international violence. Scholars have shown that “one of the best predictors of inter- and intra-national violence is the maltreatment of women in the society”.

The 1993 UN Declaration on the Elimination of VAW holds that VAW is “a manifestation of historically unequal power relations between men and women, which have led to domination over and discrimination against women by men and to the prevention of the full advancement of women, and that VAW is one of the crucial social mechanisms by which women are forced into a subordinate position compared with men.” A UN resolution has designated November 25 as the International Day for the Elimination of VAW.

The international recognition of violence against women as a human rights violation was the result of years of dedicated campaigning by women's rights activists and survivors of violence. The Vienna World Conference on Human Rights finally recognized that women's rights are human rights, a position that has been reaffirmed at all subsequent world summits.

Since the Vienna conference, violence against women has left the private domain and became an established issue within public debates. Multiple initiatives around the world have raised awareness and contributed to legal reforms that support the survivors of abuse and punish the perpetrators.

Violence against women and girls is a fundamental violation of human rights. It exists in every country of the world. It affects every segment of society and is prevalent among all age groups. Irrespective of differing cultural contexts, many perpetrators of violence against women count on the fact that their behaviour will receive little censure from within their community.

It is not only limited to Pakistan as it stretches across nations and cultures, and indeed between classes. It is a mass phenomenon taking many different forms with disastrous consequences for women's and girls' health and survival.

Statistics suggest that violence against women is astonishingly pervasive. Overall, it is estimated that one in three women worldwide will suffer some form of gender-based violence within the course of their lifetime. Forms of abuse include beating, rape, assault, trafficking, murder, humiliation, restriction of social contacts and mobility, harassment or being forced to undergo so-called "harmful practices" (UN Commission on the Status of Women, 2/28/00).

The worst reflection of social stress obtains in the rising trend of violence against women (VAW). Increase in VAW reflects a vitiation of the culture in a country where women are not only cultural minors but their number is reportedly lesser than men<sup>2</sup>.

Violence against women and girls is often perceived as an individual problem and as isolated incidents. However, a glance at empirical evidence presents an alarming picture. The social and economic costs resulting from this abuse place a substantial burden on society as a whole, hampering development manifestly. The World Bank estimates that violence against women is as serious a cause of death and incapacity among women of reproductive age as cancer and is a greater cause of ill health than traffic accidents and malaria put together. (Heise, L. et al. *Violence Against Women: The Hidden Health Burden*. World Bank Discussion Papers No. 155. Washington (DC), 1994.)

VAW adversely affects the long-term health of those assaulted. In addition to psychological trauma, sexual violence in particular, can lead to gynecological disorders, unwanted pregnancies, premature labour and birth, and an increase in sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS. Exposure to sexually transmitted diseases increases as a result of rape and fear or inability to negotiate safe sex. Violence during pregnancy is also an enormous problem, as it can quadruple the risk of low birth weight babies and double the risk of miscarriage. And VAW does directly affect educational attainment.

The cost associated with VAW is high increased health care expenditure, demands on courts,

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<sup>2</sup> According to Asia Pacific report released by UNDP in 2010 women are 49% in this region whereas the percentage in the rest of the world is 51%.

police and schools, and losses in educational attainment and productivity. A survey in India showed women lost an average of seven working days after each incident of violence. The cost of VAW is exacerbated in developing countries where women often have lower status than men.

Where VAW leads to fear of participation in schooling or economic activity, it is possible that it may be a major impediment to development. We need to use our human capital effectively to promote economic growth.

Changing attitudes that condone or tolerate VAW is challenging and requires a long-term commitment to promoting human rights.

Approaches that effectively address VAW range from changing laws, working to strengthen the response of law enforcement agencies, educating women on their rights, and working with the community. Legal reform can be ineffective if there are insufficient capacity and resources to implement the changes.

Empowering women through activities that promote income generation can assist them to recover from violence. However, this can be undermined if broader measures to address VAW are not in place.

It has been shown that domestic violence increases during wartime and after conflicts due to ex-combatant trauma and the influence of a militaristic culture of violence.

Young people are more open to changing their views about the acceptability of violence than are adults.

Some historians believe that the history of VAW is tied to the history of women being viewed as property and a gender role assigned to be subservient to men and also other women.

Violence against women takes a number of other forms including harmful traditional practices. These have been committed against women in some societies for so long they are considered part of cultural practice. Harmful traditional practices in Pakistan include dowry murder, 'honour' killings and early marriage.

Viewed in this light, it becomes obvious that besides being a fundamental violation of human rights -violence against women represents one of the most critical public health challenges and is a major factor contributing to poverty. Therefore, preventing and reducing violence against women and girls is also a key to achieving most of the UN Millennium Development Goals.

Reducing poverty amidst the injustice reflected in VAW is simply not possible. The inter-

linkages between poverty reduction, development and the promotion of human rights in the Development Policy establish it clearly that empowering women and strengthening their rights must be key priorities for our national development policy. A strong political commitment to women's human rights expressed and anchored in our various policies to Combat Poverty must be translated into sincere action for positive change to take place.

At the same time, a culturally sensitive approach must be adopted which aimed to develop strategies from a local perspective. This cannot happen without including cooperation with traditional and religious institutions in the country. Putting an end to Violence Against Women calls for local ownership, acceptance and sustainability of the reform processes in our state and society.



## **Section Two**

### **Overview of VAW Cases in Pakistan:**

Aurat Publication and Information Services Foundation (Aurat Foundation) teams have systematically compiled statistics documenting the cases of VAW. In 2009, the source for this data are Aurat Foundation's Press Clipping Services based in Islamabad, Lahore, Karachi, Peshawar and Quetta.

A report on VAW in Pakistan can only be as good as the quality of the data used to measure them. Data quality begins with careful protocols guiding data collection, but it can be affected at any point afterward including the way it is entered and tabulated and tallied at all levels. Aurat Foundation's data collection teams were obliged to glean all their inputs from printed newspaper reports. Hence many shortcomings cannot be helped.

The present report has ventured through all possible means to cover the data in all the four provinces and ICT. The Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) was only randomly covered by the Aurat Foundation's Peshawar office depending on the security situation and availability of information. These areas remained largely inaccessible throughout 2009 due to an ongoing war against terror in the area and the generally insecure law and order situation.

Data shows an alarming trend of high increases in cases of VAW. Almost 90% of these cases were reported in the newspapers from where the Aurat Foundation's teams sourced their data.

Some 8548 cases of VAW were reported during 2009 showing a 13% increase from a total reported 7,571 cases reported in year 2008. Punjab is the largest province and also tops the list with 5722 cases of violence. Sindh reported the second highest instance of VAW with 1762 cases. In the Khyber Pakhtunkhawa (KP) only 655 cases were reported while only 237 cases surfaced in Balochistan. The Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) also reported 172 VAW instances during the year under review.

Although no studies have taken place, yet it is rather obvious to state that there appears to be a gross under-reporting in the case of KP and Balochistan. The victims in today's armed conflicts are far more likely to be civilians than soldiers. Some 70 percent of the casualties in recent conflicts have been non-combatants most of them women and children. Women's bodies have become part of the battleground for those who use terror as a tactic of war they are raped, abducted, humiliated and made to undergo forced pregnancy, sexual abuse and slavery. The 1998 Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) has formally endorsed this human rights position by expressly recognizing this broad spectrum of sexual

and gender-based violence as among the gravest breaches of international law.

Violence against women during or after armed conflicts has been reported in every international or non-international war-zone, including Afghanistan, Burundi, Chad, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia, Peru, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Chechnya/Russian Federation, Darfur, Sudan, northern Uganda and the former Yugoslavia<sup>3</sup>.

Over and above this context, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa saw the biggest internal migration in the history of Pakistan in May 2009 when some 2.5 million people were forced to flee for their life from Swat, Dir and Buner when a military operation against terrorists and extremists got under way. To boot, these Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) lived in camps and host communities for nearly three months. Hence the observation that VAW remains grossly under-reported in Pakistan.

According to the data collected by Aurat Foundation's offices in Islamabad, Lahore, Karachi, Peshawar and Quetta between 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2009, cases of VAW have increased in 2009 as compared to the previous year. The 7571 reported cases of VAW in 2008 jumped to 8548 recording an increase of nearly 13 percentage points. This is in spite of the fact that few statistics were available from several districts of KP and Balochistan mainly due to security considerations.

It is a known fact that militarism produces special environments that allow for increased VAW. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, around 80% of all refugees are women and children. Mass rape has been extensively documented in recent civil conflicts and has been used systematically as an instrument of torture or ethnic domination.

Data shows “murder” and “honour' killing” of women to be the most prevalent form of VAW in Pakistan. Abductions and kidnappings of women are also rampant. Rape and gang-rape has also registered an upward trend. Domestic violence remains a serious and widespread problem. Only 50 cases of stove burning forming 0.58% of the total reported cases in 2009 indicate a reduction of 18% percent of the preceding year. However, acid throwing has increased substantially. Table-1 below compares categories manifest of various forms of overt violence of offences, number of incidents and the percentages recorded during 2008 and 2009 for cases of VAW.

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3 Referred to by General Assembly, In-Depth Study on All Forms of Violence against Women: Report of the Secretary-General, 2006. A/61/122/Add.1. 6 July 2006.

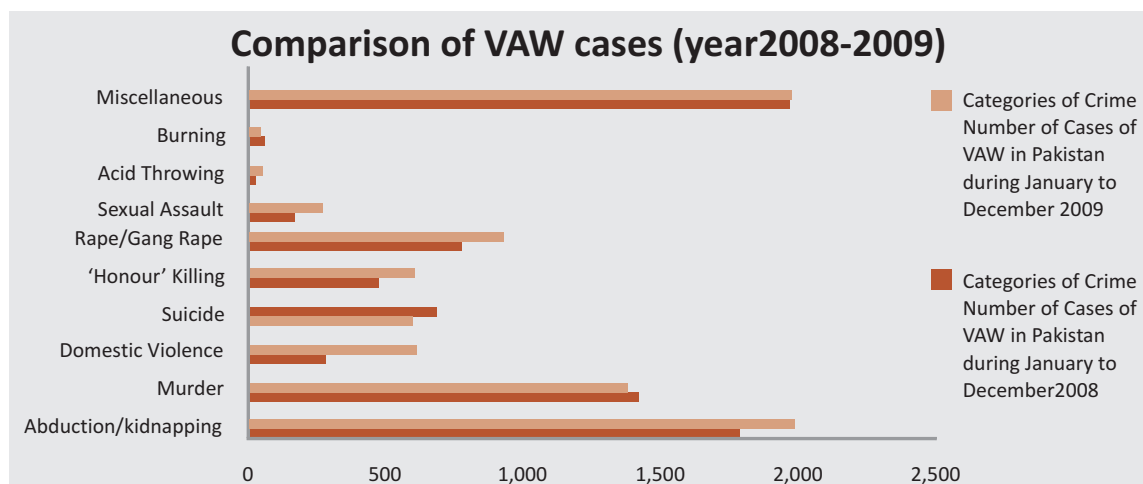


**Table 1: Number & Percentage of Cases of VAW in Pakistan during 2008-2009**

Categories of Crime	Number of Cases of VAW in Pakistan during January to December 2008 to January to December 2009		Percentage increase/decrease in cases of VAW during the year 2008-2009
	Year 2008	Year 2009	
Abduction / Kidnapping	1,784	1,987	11.38%
Murder	1,422	1,384	-2.67%
Domestic violence	281	608	116.37%
Suicide	599	683	14.02%
'Honour' killing	475	604	27.15%
Rape/Gang rape	778	928	19.28%
Sexual assault	172	274	59.30%
Acid throwing	29	53	82.75%
Burning	61	50	-18.03%
Miscellaneous	1,970	1,977	0.35%
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,571</b>	<b>8,548</b>	<b>1290.00%</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>16119</b>	

Data shows the number and percentage of the cases of “murder” and “honour' killing” of women has been the most prevalent form of VAW in Pakistan. Clubbed together, some 1988 instances that are more than a quarter (23.25%) of all reported cases in 2009 portrayed the most heinous form of VAW with the victims deprived of their Right to Life.

Abductions and kidnappings of women was the second highest reported incidence of VAW with 1987 cases. This is 23.4% of all the known instances. Rape and gang-rape also saw an alarming increase of 19.28% in 2009 compared with a year ago. Some 928 cases of rape and gang-rapes constituted 10.27% of the cases of VAW that were reported in year 2008. Suicides also reached a



4 For example, during World War II, the Japanese military established brothels for soldiers, exploiting women for the purpose of creating access and entitlement for men known as the “Comfort women”.

new high with 683 cases reported. This constitutes 7.99% of the total cases and reflects an increase of 13% over the preceding year.

It is therefore, difficult to digest that in such an exceedingly violent social context only 889 cases or 5.5% of the total VAW instances of domestic violence actually took place during 2008-09. The obvious inference surely must be that domestic violence remains grossly under reported in the media that has been the source for the statistics available.

Domestic violence is a very serious and widespread problem. And it is not limited to Pakistan alone. A study by the United States Centres for Disease Control and Prevention revealed that battery is the greatest single cause of injury among American women, accounting for more emergency room visits (over one million per year) than car accidents, muggings and rapes combined. However, evidence also suggests that when a woman breaks out of a violent relationship she can risk further persecution or even death.

It is also not conceivable that the total reported sexual assaults could only have been 274 in number or a mere 3.21% of all the known cases of VAW in Pakistan during 2009. Under reporting is obviously the issue in this class of VAW as noted above.

Since there has been strong legislation, effective judicial action and substantial media dissemination to protect victims of stove burning the low number of reported cases in this category, however, indicates one area where there has been a welcome reduction in instances of violence. Only 50 cases of stove burning forming 0.58% of the total reported cases in 2009 indicate a reduction of 18% percent of the preceding year.

However, acid throwing saw a substantial increase in instance with 53 cases in 2009 reflecting a rise of 82.76% over 2008. Since this particular form of violence has found favor with perpetrators, it indicates the need to enhance penal provisions for the crime of it might continue to rise beyond being 0.62% of all the known cases of VAW in Pakistan.

The dearth of data is also indicated in the 1977 cases of violence that have been clubbed together

**Table 2: Number & Percentage of Cases of VAW in Pakistan during 2009**

<i>Category of Crime</i>	<i>Total Number of Cases</i>	<i>%age of the Total</i>
<b>Murder</b>	1384	16.19%
<b>'Honour' killing</b>	604	7.06%
<b>Abduction/ Kidnapping</b>	1987	23.25%
<b>Domestic violence</b>	608	7.11%
<b>Suicide</b>	683	7.99%
<b>Rape/ Gang rape</b>	928	10.86%
<b>Sexual assault</b>	274	3.21%
<b>Stove burning</b>	50	0.58%
<b>Acid throwing</b>	53	0.62%
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	1977	23.13%
<b>Total</b>	<b>8548</b>	<b>100%</b>

5 Costs of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) Against Women in the United States: [http://www.cdc.gov/Ncipc/publications/ipv\\_cost/IPVBook-Final-Feb18.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/Ncipc/publications/ipv_cost/IPVBook-Final-Feb18.pdf)

being of “miscellaneous nature”. These include cases of *vanni*, *sawara*, custodial violence, torture, trafficking, child marriages, incest, threat to violence, sexual harassment, attempted murder, as reported from all the four provinces and Islamabad during the year 2009.

Table-2 summarizes instances of VAW in Pakistan during the report year along with percentage ranking of the acts of violence targeting women.

The magnitude of VAW has reached alarming proportions in our country. Social endorsement to VAW reflects in the callous responses many provincial assemblies and our national legislative bodies have adopted over shocking cases of VAW. The reaction of many Parliamentarians to the shocking incidents in Balochistan is case in point when a few men legislators tried to justify burying women alive in the name of tradition in 2008; and a majority of men and women legislators remained silent on the issues with the notable exception of Sindh Provincial Assembly that passed a strongly-worded resolution against the incident.

Particularly threatening is the widespread prevalence of physical violence. There can be no two opinions that all these figures are outrageous for the sheer vulnerability of women in Pakistan. The numbers make extremely depressing reading without any doubt. These figures of murder and honour killings, abductions, rape and gang-rape and suicide show the ugly reality of our violent social existence in the Indus Valley today. It is only disturbing to realize that this is but in addition to the most horrific cases of stove burning and barbaric acts of acid-throwing.

**Table 3: Offence-wise / Province-wise breakdown of major offences out of 8548 cases of VAW in Pakistan**

No. of Cases	Nature of Crime	Punjab	Sindh	KP	Balochistan	ICT
1384	<i>Murder</i>	752	288	266	39	39
604	<i>'Honour' killing</i>	245	284	14	59	2
1987	<i>Abduction/Kidnapping</i>	1698	160	64	13	52
608	<i>Domestic violence</i>	271	134	163	22	18
683	<i>Suicide</i>	448	176	43	10	6
928	<i>Rape/Gang rape</i>	786	122	7	4	9
274	<i>Sexual assault</i>	227	122	7	4	9
50	<i>Stove burning</i>	33	10	4	1	2
53	<i>Acid throwing</i>	42	9	1	0	1
74	<i>Threat to violence</i>	51	3	0	0	20
312	<i>Torture</i>	282	1	5	8	16

What we see reflected in these statistics is an ugly face of a society deeply mired in the vicious cycle of violence based upon gender discrimination.

### 2.1. Territorial distribution of VAW in Pakistan:

The data collected and presented below in tabular form shows that over half of the total cases of VAW took place in Punjab. The province reported 5,722 out of a total of 8548 cases of VAW recorded from all over the country. This gives the largest province a manifest lead with 66.94% of all the known cases of VAW. Sindh followed Punjab with 1762 or 20.62% of the total. The Frontier region (now renamed as Khyber-Pakhtunkhawa) reported only 655 or

7.66% of the reported VAW instances. In Balochistan, the number of such cases was 237 or a mere 2.77% of the total for the whole country. It is a matter of concern that Islamabad also reported a high number of 172 contributing 2.01% to the national total of cases of VAW despite its high security environment, urban facilities and a concentration of support and judicial services.

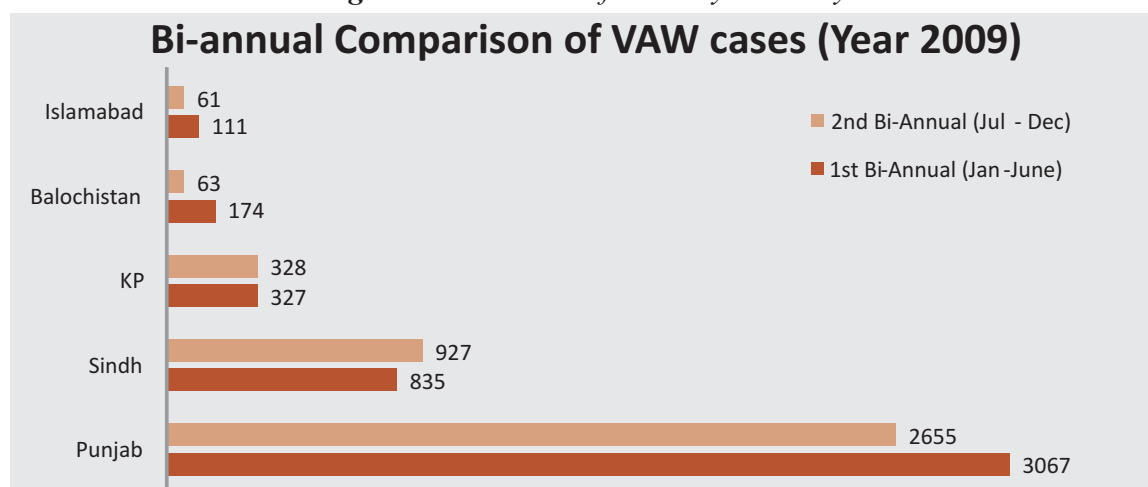
A greater part of the cases of VAW happened in the first half or bi-annual of the 2009 when there were 4,514 reported cases in Pakistan. Of these 3,067 took place in Punjab; 835 in Sindh; 327 in KP; 174 in Balochistan and 111 in Islamabad.

In the second bi-annual, another 4034 cases of VAW surfaced. Of these, 2655 were in Punjab, 927 in Sindh, 328 in KP, 63 in Balochistan and 61 in Islamabad.

**Table 4: Total Number & Percentage of Cases by territory and bi-annual 2009**

Province	1st Bi-Annual (Jan – Jun 2009)	%	2nd Bi-Annual (Jul- Dec 2009)	%	Percentage increase/decrease in cases of VAW during the 1st and 2nd half of the year 2009
Punjab	3067	67.95%	2655	65.82%	-13.43%
Sindh	835	18.49%	927	22.98%	11.01%
Khyber Pakhtun khawa	327	7.24%	328	8.13%	0.30%
Balochistan	174	3.86%	63	1.56%	-63.79%
Islamabad	111	2.46%	61	1.51%	-45.04%
Grand Total	<b>4514</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>4034</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>-10.63%</b>

**Fig 1: Total number of cases by Territory**



However, it would be misleading to conclude that the ratio of VAW in Punjab was higher than other territories. Punjab is the largest province in demographic terms. When the prevalence of cases of VAW is seen in comparison to population, it follows that the 66.94% crime rate in Punjab bears proportion to its 56% share in the total population of the country. Nonetheless, the trend is not good for the situation of cases of VAW does exceed its demographic

proportions in the federation of Pakistan.

Sindh fares slightly better. The province is home to 23% of the country's population while it only has a 20.62% VAW crime rate. In view of the obtaining rural poverty and known cultural biases against women, however, the issue becomes worth investigating whether or not the reported percentage of cases bear resemblance to the actual occurrence of crimes in the province.

It has already been observed that there appears to be an apparent under-reporting in the case of KP. The province has a 13% share in population while its reported VAW crime rate is only 7.66% despite the overbearing context of an ongoing war in the area.

In Balochistan, the same situation of under-reporting VAW appears to repeat itself. The reported crime rate is only 2.77% which is nearly half of its 5% share in the population of Pakistan.

The trends of under-reporting are further reinforced in the instance of VAW for Islamabad that stands at 2.01% of the total for 2009. Since the Islamabad Capital Territory is one of the most secure living areas with manifestly better police and justice services, a crime rate for VAW more than double its share in population 1% of the total population perhaps only indicate the true rate than any other territorial data from the provinces!

Initially, the Aurat Foundation data collectors noticed that there was a progression in number of cases of VAW with each quarter passing through the year for all the provinces. It was considered if this might indicate increase in the number of cases of VAW. However, the possibility was ruled out because of another factor that was considered to have contributed towards this increase: there had been an increase in the number of newspapers that were being scanned for the purpose of collecting case of VAW figures. This happened because data collecting teams continued to increase the number of newspapers they scanned until a stage was reached when it was felt that coverage of each and every district had been ensured.

Data shows most cases of women murders in 2009 to have taken place in Punjab, followed by Sindh and KP while 39 women were killed in Islamabad. However, tables and data produced above bear testimony that these murder statistics followed population proportions in all provinces as well as Islamabad. However, killings of women in the name of 'honour' were concentrated in Sindh and Balochistan. More noticeably, 'honour' killing was consistently higher in some districts of the two provinces situated in close proximity to each other forming a geographical belt. The district of Kashmore, for instance, reported 54 murder cases of women in 2009!

## 2.2. Highest crime rate of VAW in 15 Districts:

Lahore has earned itself the dubious distinction of being the District with the highest VAW crime rate. In terms of VAW incidents, it saw 910 cases out of a total of 8548 cases for all of Pakistan making it the VAW crime capital of the country. Lahore had the same ranking in 2008.

The industrialized districts showed a greater trend for cases of VAW proving research observations that urban stresses especially the rising costs of living take their toll from the most vulnerable parts of the population, women.

Lahore's gory distinction of 910 cases stays even in data for Punjab province that reported a total of 5722 cases. It was followed by Faisalabad with 742 cases and Sargodha with 473 VAW crimes. Rawalpindi (352), Peshawar (310), Gujranwala (290), Sheikupura (259), Sukkur (243), Multan (240), Kasur (225), Vehari (171), and Toba Tek Singh (159) followed the three respectively.

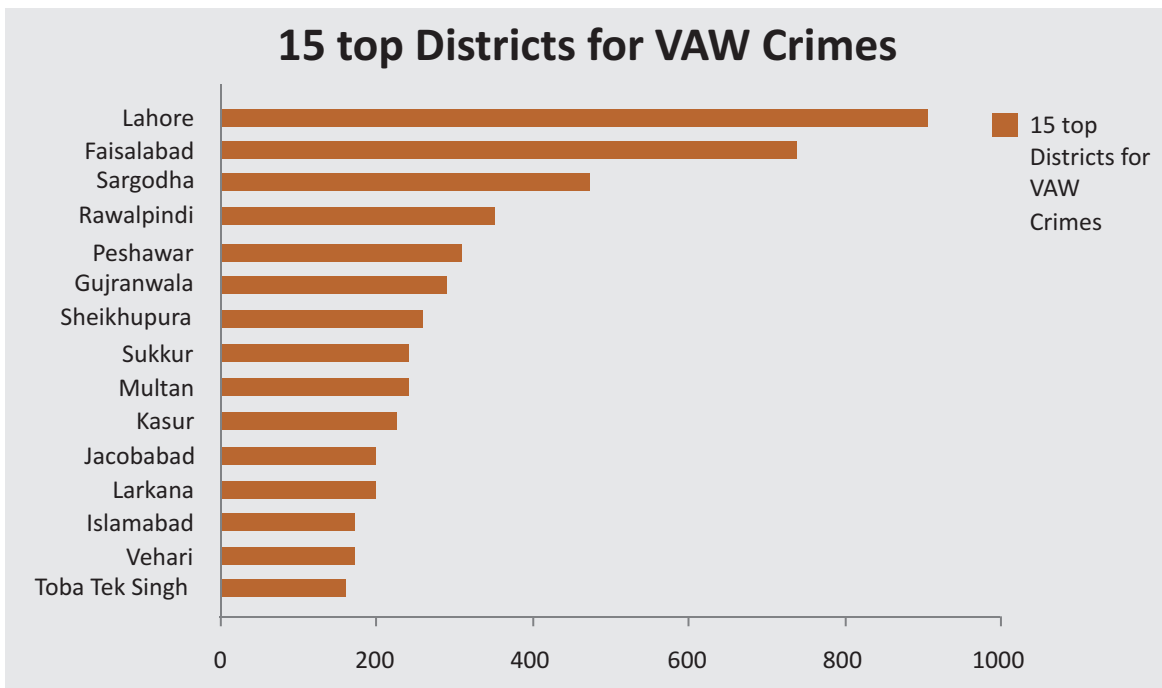
Table 5 and Figure 2 bellow illustrate these facts.

*Table 5: 15 top districts for VAW Crimes*

Sr. No.	District Name	Abduction/ Kidnapping	Acid Throwing	Domestic Violence	Rape/Gang Rape	'honour' Killing	Murder	Sexual Assault	Stove Burning	Suicide	Miscellaneous	Grand Total
1	Lahore	372	2	30	73	23	96	23	2	65	224	910
2	Faisalabad	265	10	18	151	26	91	37	2	32	110	742
3	Sargodha	140	-	39	40	17	49	31	2	30	125	473
4	Rawalpindi	169	3	24	23	4	53	1	9	8	58	352
5	Peshawar	56	-	110	3	5	72	-	1	7	56	310
6	Gujranwala	28	1	9	36	16	49	7	3	76	65	290
7	Sheikhupura	88	1	4	46	15	40	11	-	26	28	259
8	Sukkur	31		21	8	32	46	2		25	78	243
9	Multan	64	7	29	42	8	22	8	3	6	51	240
10	Kasur	80	-	5	41	13	36	14		10	26	225
11	Jacobabad	41	1	23	14	36	38		1	14	31	199
12	Larkana	13		4	18	31	52	2		21	56	197
13	Islamabad	52	1	18	9	2	39	2	2	6	41	172
14	Vehari	40	2	8	31	6	16	12		5	51	171
15	Toba Tek Singh	22	1	4	23	17	20	5		18	49	159

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*Fig 2: 15 top district VAW Crime cases in 2009*



### 2.3. Major Categories of VAW Prevalent in Pakistan:

The most prevalent categories of VAW in Pakistan include murder, 'honour' killing, abduction and kidnapping, domestic violence, suicide, rape and gang rape, sexual assault, stove burning and acid throwing. These are distinct from the minor categories for which there is little segregated data available. These are reported as “miscellaneous nature” including cases of vanni, sawara, custodial violence, torture, trafficking, child marriages, incest, threat to violence, sexual harassment and attempted murder as reported from all the four provinces and Islamabad during the year 2009.

Below is an elaboration of the major categories and the reported cases of VAW in these categories from the year in review.

#### 2.3.1. Murder:

During 2009 there were a total of 1384 cases of murder reported from all over Pakistan that has been classified as cases of VAW. Of these 752 or 54.34% of the total were found to have

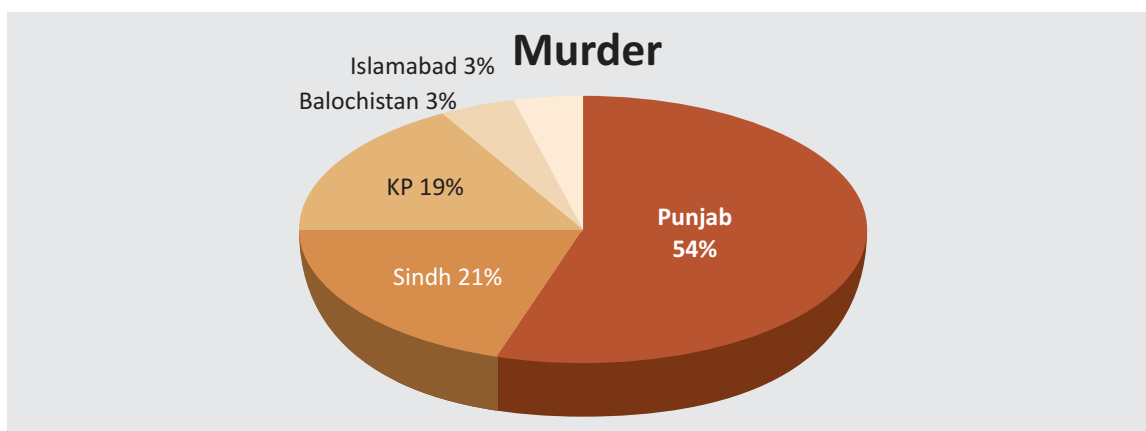


taken place in Punjab. Sindh was on number two with 288 or 20.81% of the total VAW murders reported. The KP had a 19.22% share in the total VAW murders with 266 reported cases. Both the province of Balochistan and Islamabad reported 39 cases each claiming 2.82% of the total. This however, needs to be seen in the context of their population figures that makes Balochistan five times more dangerous for women than Islamabad!

The highest reported crime of murder reported from the major cities of Pakistan took place in Lahore that saw 96 women killed during 2009. Partner violence globally accounts for large numbers of deaths among women. Studies show that between 40 and 70 per cent of female murder victims were killed by their partner around the world. Lahore appears to be no exception.

Faisalabad followed closely with 94 murders indicating that economic turmoil engenders violence at an alarming rate. Kashmore, situated on the border of Punjab, Sindh and Balochistan saw the third highest instance of VAW murders with 54 reported cases. Rawalpindi reported 53 women murders followed by 52 from Larkana. Gujranwala, Sargodha, Peshawar and Sukkur all saw 49 VAW murder cases each. Karachi also reported 46 murders but seen in proportion to the population in this mega city, the number is much less alarming than say from the situation in Sheikhpura that reported 40 VAW murders despite being less than 10% in demographic size to the Sindh metropolis. Remaining cases were

*Fig 3: Murder*



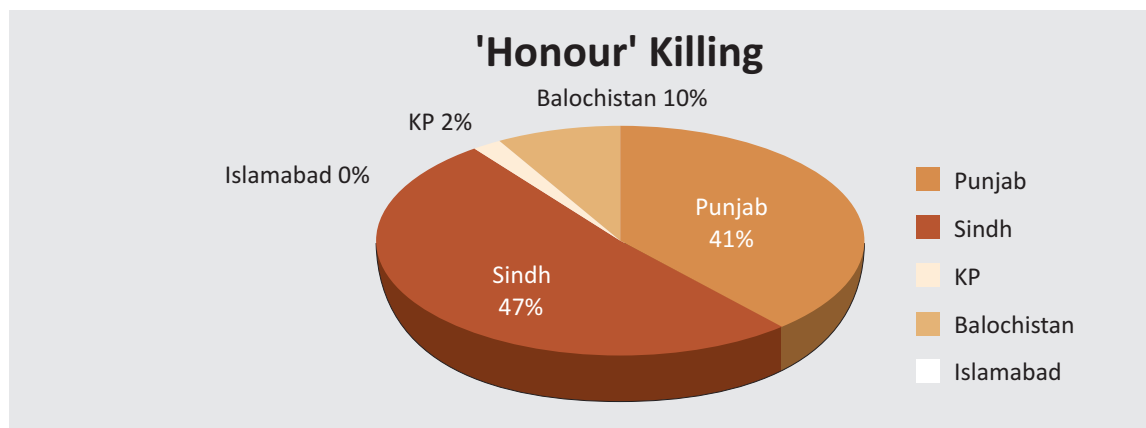
### 2.3.2 'Honour' Killing:

A total of 604 men were killed in the name of 'honour' (*karo kari*) over Pakistan during 2009. Sindh was the worst offender in this particular genre of violence against women. Out of the 604 reported cases from across the country, some 284 or 47.01% of the total took place in the territories of the Sindh province. Balochistan also reported 59 cases claiming a 9.76% share in the national data. Punjab was not much behind Sindh in this particular brand of VAW with



245 cases or 40.56% of the total crimes reported during the year. The KP province also reported 14 cases claiming a 2.32% share in national statistics. Islamabad was the lowest with only two reported murders in the name of honour or barely 0.42% share on a country-wide basis.

**Fig 4. 'Honour' killing**



'Honour' killing is higher in rural and tribal areas where *jirgas* and *panchayat* systems still hold sway overriding the law of the land and undermining formal institutions of conflict resolution

**Table 6: District wise Comparison of 'Honour' Killing cases reported during (2009-08)**

S. No	District	'Honour' killings cases in 2008	District	'Honour' killing cases in 2009
1.	Ghotki	36	Jaccobabad	36
2.	Naseerabad	34	Khairpur Mirs	34
3.	Jaccobabad	32	Sukkur	32
4.	Khairpur Mirs	31	Larkana	31
5.	Lahore	34	Faisalabad	26
6.	Larkana	32	Ghotki	24
7.	Sukkur	26	Lahore	23
8.	Nausheroferoz	24	Mirpur Khas	22
9.	Faisalabad	23	Karachi	21
10.	Karachi	22	Nausheroferoz	20
11.	Jhang	17	Jhang	17

### 2.3.3. Abductions:

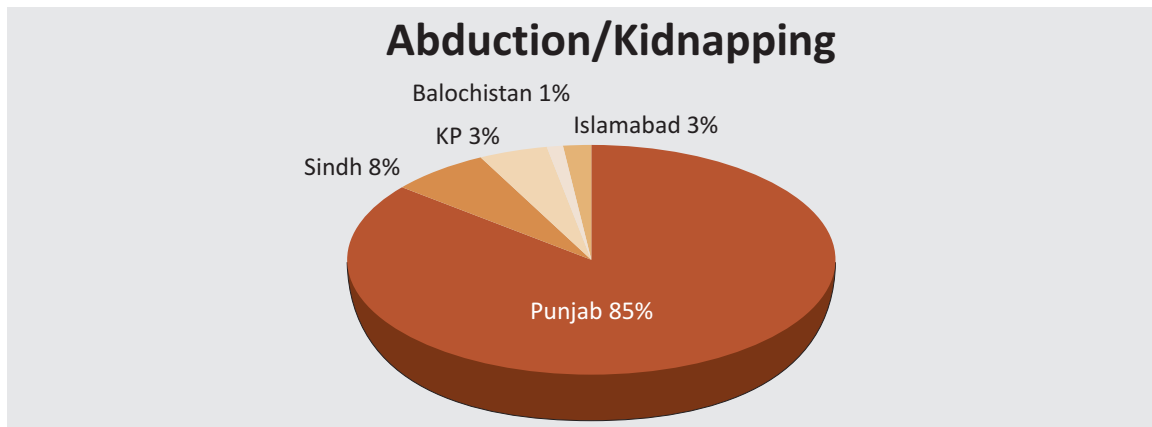
In contrast to 'honour' killings largely committed in Sindh and Balochistan, the highest instance of abduction of women cases occurred in Punjab. In fact, this appears to be the major VAW crime in Punjab with 1698 incidents out of a total of 1987 cases reported all over Pakistan during 2009. This comes to a high rate of more than four women reportedly abducted everyday on an average in the province. This is 85.45% of the total figure for cases

of VAW from the province.

Another alarming and improbable is the figure of women abductions from Islamabad. This is higher than what obtains from the provinces of KP and Balochistan where law enforcement is comparatively weaker and social traditions vitiate against women emancipation. According to cases monitored and recorded by the Aurat Foundation teams some 52 cases of women abductions took place in Islamabad which is 2.62% of all the cases in Pakistan during 2009. Compared to 13 abductions from Balochistan, 64 from KP and 160 cases in Sindh, the numbers are astounding.

Lahore leads the trend of abductions with 372 cases followed by 265 from Faisalabad. The pattern continues with 169 from Rawalpindi; 140 from Sargodha, 88 from Sheikhpura; 80 from Kasur, 64 from Multan; 52 from Islamabad; 41 from Jacobabad. Remaining cases were reported from different areas of KP, Sindh, Punjab and Balochistan as shown in Figure 5 below.

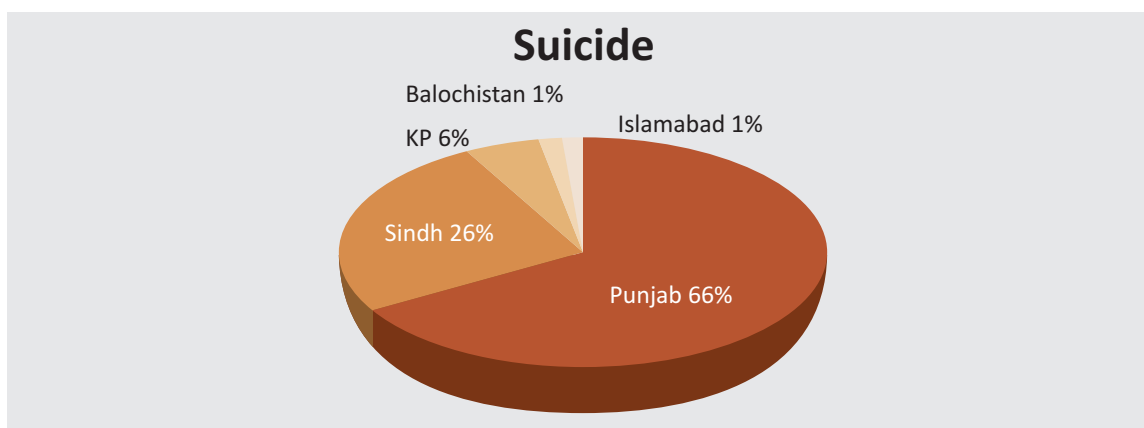
*Fig 5: Abduction/Kidnapping.*



There have been suggestions that in some districts of Sindh, Balochistan and Punjab, heavily entrenched in tribal and patriarchal values of controlling women's lives and bodies, there has been a manifest preference to 'kill' the women for "honour" rather than abducting them. This is reflected in the higher ratio of murder and 'honour' killing in these areas and a proportionally low ratio of abductions and rape or gang-rape reported. The so-called custodians of harmful customs and traditions in these tribal societies routinely inflict sheer humiliation on their women denying them the dignity of a choice. 'Honour' killings are the worst form of this control and the most shameful manifestation of VAW in Pakistan.

### 2.3.4. Suicide:

**Fig 6: Suicides**



**Table 7: Reported cases of Suicide during 2008-09**

S.no	District	2009	District	2008
1.	Lahore	65	Lahore	67
2.	Faisalabad	32	Faisalabad	36
3.	Karachi	16	Sahiwal	36
4.	Sahiwal	13	Karachi	19
5.	Rawalpindi	8	Rawalpindi	14
6.	Multan	6	Multan	10

Violence against women is the main driver behind female suicides. The total numbers of reported suicide were 683 in 2009, according to media scanning by the Aurat Foundation teams. Once again following the pattern of abductions, the highest numbers of suicide cases were reported from Punjab, followed by Sindh and KP. With 448 women committing suicide a 65.59% share in this particular brand of VAW went to Punjab in 2009. Another 176 or 25.76% women suicide were reported from Sindh. Some 43 suicides were reported from KP making it home to 6.29% of these VAW crimes. Among the provinces, Balochistan recorded the least instance of this VAW with only 10 reported cases or 1.91% of the total suicides in Pakistan. Islamabad reported 6 cases during the year.

### 2.3.5. Rape/gang-rape:

It is a matter of shame for the whole nation that rape continues to be perpetuated against women despite a lot of judicial activism and manifest government support to punish the heinous form of VAW in Pakistan. The number of rape and gang-rape incidents forms a very high proportion of all the VAW crimes. A total of 928 rape and gang-rape incidents occurred in 2009 all over Pakistan. This manifests the oppression and humiliation creeping into the society. Women continue to be victimized with this most heinous crime that ruins their lives

and brings shame to their family and children for the rest of their lives. The situation is not helped when most victims are unable to find justice.

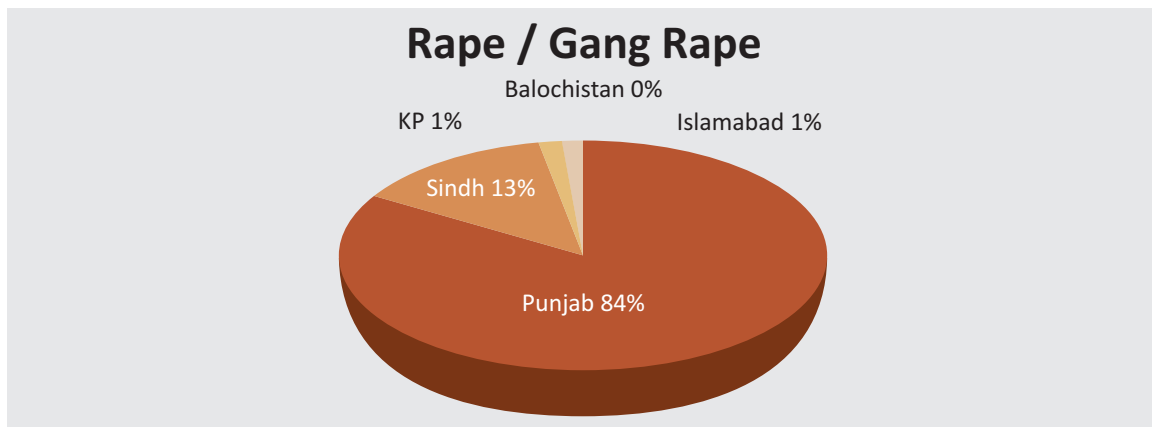
Punjab takes the lead in this national shame. Not only the highest number of cases of rape and gang-rape were committed in Punjab but the proportion in national statistics show the rein of insecurity for women in the mostly thickly populated province of our country. Out of a total of 928 reported cases from all over the country, Punjab witnessed 786 on its soil. This is 84.69% of the total and stands in total contrast to the 56% share of the province in our population. Quite obviously the justice system in Punjab has failed to arrest this heinous development spelling insecurity for women across its territories.

Sindh, also have a high prevalent occurrence of this crime with 122 reported case that forms 13.15% of the total cases of rape and gang-rape across the country. The tribal orientation and a tradition of open vendettas arrest these crimes in KP and Balochistan that report incidents of rape and gang-rape significantly less than other provinces with seven and four cases each, respectively. However, since rape is increasingly used as a weapon of war, it has been said that worldwide an estimated one in five women will be a victim of rape or attempted rape in her lifetime. Since protection and support for women survivors of conflict are meager, the low reporting of rape cases from KP and Balochistan may be yet another manifestation of suppressed reality.

Islamabad appears to have become a new hot spot for rape in Pakistan with nine incidents reported during 2009.

Faisalabad earned the shame of reporting the highest rape incidents among major cities of Pakistan with 151 cases during 2009. Lahore followed with 73 crimes. Sheikhpura with 46 cases, Multan with 42 and Kasur with 41 cases bespoke the continuation of sorry agrarian lawlessness in our rural hinterlands. There were 12 cases reported from Karachi, 9 from Jhang and 5 from Vehari as well. Islamabad rang alarm bells with nine registered cases.

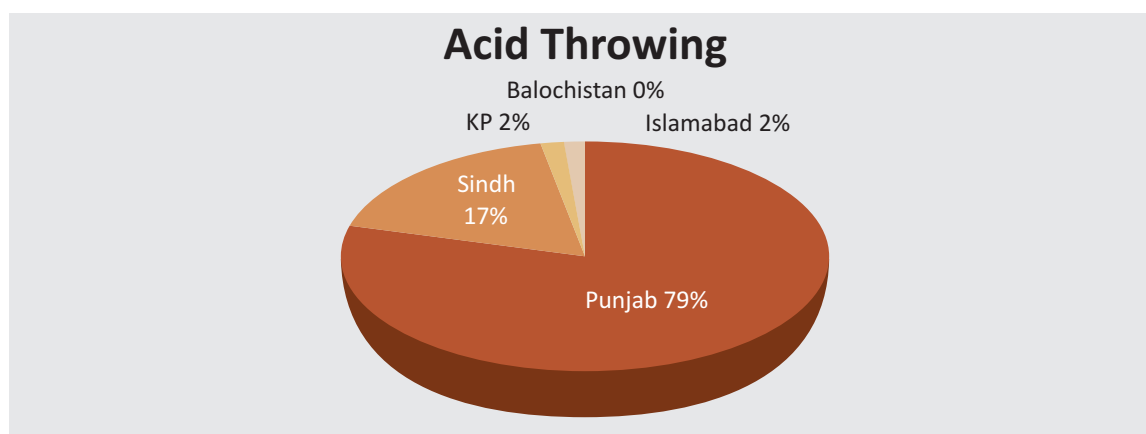
*Fig 7: Rape and Gang/Rape*



### 2.3.6. Acid Throwing:

Acid throwing is perhaps the most ignominious of all gender-based crimes. It is a form of extreme violent assault. Perpetrators throw acid at women, usually on their faces with the intent to mutilate their faces forever. The attack leads to severe burning and badly damages skin tissues often exposing and sometimes even dissolving the underlying bones. The consequences of these attacks include blindness and permanent scarring of the face and body.

*Fig 8: Acid throwing*



A total of 53 cases of acid throwing were registered across Pakistan. Punjab takes the highest ratio in terms of territory. Out of the total 53 cases, 42 were reported from Punjab, 9 from Sindh and 1 crime took place in Islamabad.

*Table 8: Reported cases of Acid Throwing during 2008-09*

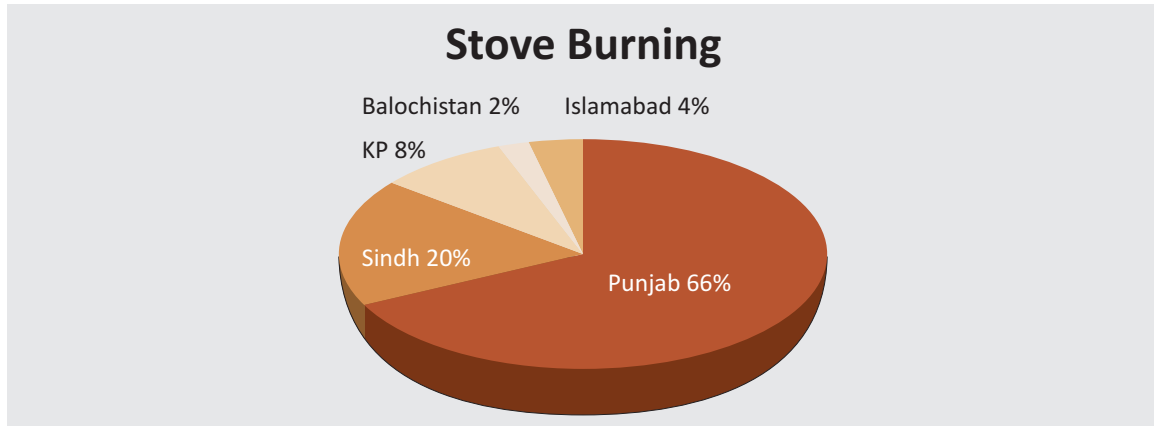
S. No	District	2008	District	2009
1.	Multan	06	Faisalabad	10
2.	Lahore	04	Multan	07
3.	Rawalpindi	03	Khairpur Mirs's	03
4.	Bhawalpur	02	Rawalpindi	03
5.	Hyderabad	01	Ghotki	02
6.	Karachi	01	Karachi	02
7.	Faisalabad	01	Lahore	02

### 2.3.7. Stove burning:

Punjab again earned itself an ignominious lead with 33 stove-burning crime of VAW from a national total of 50 cases registered during 2009. Sindh reported 10 cases while only one incident was registered in Balochistan. KP saw four acts of violence with Islamabad reporting another two in the year under review.

Lahore had the highest reported stove burning crimes among the major cities of Pakistan with nine cases. Rawalpindi and Islamabad also registered two cases each along with Gujranwala, Jhang, Multan and Sargodha.

**Fig 9: Stove burning**



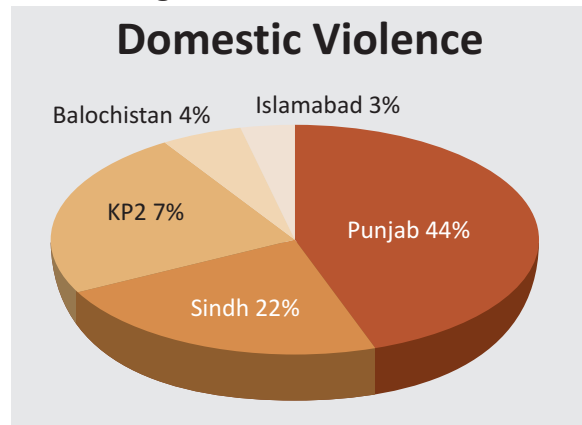
Incidents were sprinkled all over districts of KP, Punjab, Sindh and Balochistan. The motivations in majority of the cases are reported as domestic conflict or husband's desire to remarry. Demand for greater dowry is also a major cause of this particular offence. In most cases, the crime is perpetrated by the in-laws, especially husbands of the victims or survivors. Most targeted victims were young married women.

Incidents were sprinkled all over districts of KP, Punjab, Sindh and Balochistan. The motivations in majority of the cases are reported as domestic conflict or husband's desire to remarry. Demand for greater dowry is also a major cause of this particular offence. In most cases, the crime is perpetrated by the in-laws, especially husbands of the victims or survivors. Most targeted victims were young married women.

**2.3.8. Domestic Violence:**

Domestic violence has also been on the rise across the country. Some 608 cases of domestic violence were recorded in 2009. Among these, 271 crimes took place in Punjab, 163 in KP, 134 in Sindh and 22 in Balochistan. Another 18 cases were registered in Islamabad.

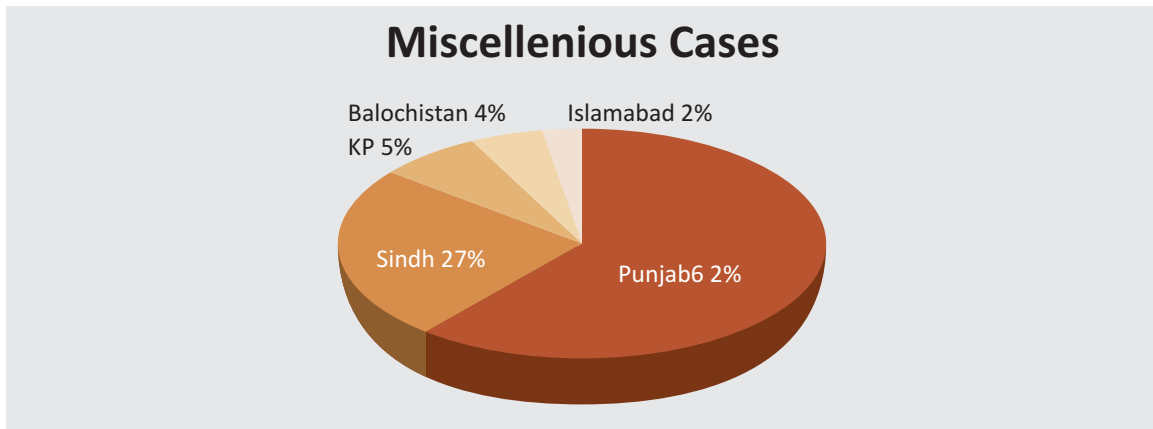
**Fig 10: Domestic Violence**



**2.3.9. Miscellaneous:**

*Vanni, sawara*, custodial violence, torture, trafficking, child marriages, incest, threat to violence, sexual harassment, attempted Karo Kari are also included in this category of cases of VAW across Pakistan. Also included are attempts to murder or rape along with failed attempts at suicide. A total of 1966 cases were of miscellaneous nature took place during 2009 in the four provinces and Islamabad.

*Fig 11: Miscellaneous*



**2.4. FIR Status of VAW Cases:**

Although some 8548 cases of VAW were reported from all over Pakistan, yet only 5996 cases were formally registered with the police. Formal registration entails a “First Information Report” or FIR that forms the basis for prosecution. This number has been computed based upon media reports excluding cases where registration of FIR was not reported. These reports or 'crime stories' appearing in the newspapers informed that 1154 cases out of the total 8548 were not registered with the police. No evidence was found in media coverage on the FIR status of the remaining 1398 cases.

*Table 9: FIR Status of the VAW Cases in Pakistan*

FIR Status	Number of Cases	%age of the Total
Registered	5996	70.14%
Not Registered	1154	13.50%
No-Information Available	1398	16.36%
Grand Total	8548	100%

## 2.5. Marital Status of Victims/Survivors in VAW Cases in Pakistan:

The 8548 cases reported from all over Pakistan recorded crimes against 9743 victims. There was no information given on the marital status of 1471 victims of reported VAW crimes in Pakistan during 2009. Excluding these, 4,215 victim women were married and 3,868 were unmarried. Some 145 women have been widowed while 44 were divorcees.

**Table 10: Marital Status of Victims/Survivors in VAW Cases in Pakistan**

Marital Status	No. of Women Mentioned	%age of the Total
Married	4215	43.26%
Unmarried	3868	39.70%
Widow	145	1.49%
Divorced	44	0.46%
No. Information	1471	15.09%
Total	9743	100%

## 2.6. Age-Groups of VAW Victims:

In the total number of 8,548 cases of VAW recorded from all over Pakistan, the number of victims or survivors was reported to be 9,743 in 2009. However, there was no information available about the age of some 6,336 victims in the reported cases of VAW. An analysis of the data available showed that of these, 1,663 women victims fell in the age group up to 18 years. Another 1,123 women were in the between 19 to 36 years age group. The remaining 621 women were all 37 years or above in age.

Age Group	No. of women in which age of survivors / victims were mentioned	% age of total
00-18 years	1663	17.07%
19-36 years	1123	11.53%
37 & above	621	6.37%
Age-not mentioned	6336	65.03%
Total	9743	100.00%



## Section Three

### Overview of VAW Incidents in Punjab

Punjab was very much a part of the Indus Valley Civilization with the city of Harrapa being an important citadel around 4000 BC. The Indus Valley Civilization spanned much of what is today Pakistan and eventually evolved into Indo-Aryan civilization. This civilization shaped subsequent cultures in South Asia and Afghanistan.

Punjab has been known as the "Land of the Five Rivers" since ancient times. The name Punjab literally translates from the words *Panch*, meaning Five, and *Ab* meaning Water. The province is the most fertile region of Pakistan situated along river valleys and has been named after the five rivers of Indus, Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi and Sutlej. The Punjab is the country's most populous region with about 56% of Pakistan's total population.

Punjab has been the cradle of civilization since times immemorial. The ruins of Harappa show an advanced urban culture that flourished over 8000 years ago. Taxila, another historic landmark also stands out as a proof of the achievements of the area in learning, arts and crafts in bygone ages. The ancient Hindu Katasraj temple and the Salt Range temples are testament to its history.

Punjab is Pakistan's second largest province at 205,344 km<sup>2</sup> (79,284 mi<sup>2</sup>) after Balochistan and is located at the northwestern edge of the geologic Indian plate in South Asia. The provincial capital is Lahore which is also the largest metropolis in the territories. Other important cities include Multan, Faisalabad, Sialkot, Gujranwala, Jhelum and Rawalpindi.

It is the only province in Pakistan that has contiguous borders with all the provinces as well as the ICT. The region also contains Cholistan desert. The lands are irrigated with canal waters throughout the province. Neighbouring areas are Sindh to the south, Balochistan and the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to the west, Azad Jammu & Kashmir and Islamabad to the north, and the India to the east.

Agriculture continues to be the largest sector of Punjab's economy. The province is the breadbasket of the country. Since there has been no large-scale redistribution of agricultural land, most rural areas are dominated by a small set of land-owning families. Its canal-irrigation system established by the British is the largest in the world.

Despite lack of a coastline, Punjab is the most industrialized province of Pakistan. Since the 1950s, Punjab industrialized rapidly. New factories came up in Lahore, Multan, Sialkot and Wah. In the 1960s the new city of Islamabad was built near Rawalpindi. Starting in the 1980s large numbers of Punjabis migrated to the Middle East, Britain, Spain, Canada and the

United States for economic opportunities.

### **3.1. Overall Cases of VAW in Punjab:**

Aurat Foundation study has shown that a total number of 5,722 incidents of VAW took place across the 35 districts of Punjab during the year from the beginning of January to the end of 2009.

#### **Of these 5722 cases, there were:**

1698	cases of abduction/kidnapping
1220	cases of violence were of miscellaneous nature
786	cases of rape/gang rape
752	cases of murder
448	cases of suicide
271	cases of domestic violence
245	cases of 'honour killing'
227	cases of sexual assault
42	cases of acid throwing
33	cases of stove burning

The table below shows abduction to be the most form of VAW in Punjab being 29.68% of all the reported cases from the province in the year 2009. Rape and gang-rape constituted the second most frequently committed VAW in Punjab with a 13.74% ratio among the total reported cases. Murder has the third highest frequency among VAW with the total showing 13.14% pertaining to killing of women in the province. The abject helplessness that manifests in a 7.84% rate of suicides by women among the VAW reported from the province goes a long way to tell the grim reality in our most thickly populated areas.

Women remain the target of 'honour' killing in the province despite its comparatively higher state of development than the rest of the country. Some 4.28% of all the cases of VAW constitute this shameful crime. Sexual assault also appears on the rise with 3.96% of all crimes falling in that category. Domestic violence is also high at 4.73% of the total. Stove burning is alarming at 0.57% but acid throwing at 0.73% shows a much graver rise of this particular form of VAW in Punjab.

Rest is the 21.34% comprising of miscellaneous cases. These include 44 cases of attempted abductions and kidnapping that are no less serious being 3.61% of all the reported acts of VAW from the province. It is a relief that 53 attempts to murder did not succeed. Some 21.8% of suicide attempts numbering 266 in total also have been reported.

There were eight cases reported for early marriages of girls constituting 0.66% of the total. Another 12 women were forced into marriages and reported a 0.98% share of this category of VAW prevalent in the province of Punjab. Harassment incidents numbered 99 during 2009 and constituted 8.11% of the total reported. Illegal custody was suffered by 14 women making this a 1.16% prevalent form of VAW.

Incest was reported in five cases showing a high incidence at 0.41% of cases of VAW in total. Some 319 women reported being injured making it the highest form of violence with a prevalence rate of 26.14%. Threats to life were issued to 57 women which means of all the cases of VAW some 4.67% fall under this particular category. Trafficking denied their human rights to 40 women in the province showing that it was an increasing instance at 3.28% of the VAW. Torture appeared to be widespread with 245 cases making up 20.08% of all VAW reports from the area. Vanni and Watta Satta crimes were reported by 30 (2.46%) and 3 (0.25%) women from across the province respectively. Another three were targeted for fraud during 2009 showing that this was a 0.25% prevalent form of VAW in the territorial boundaries of the province.

Data shows that Punjab deprived the most number of women of their right to life in the year 2009. The number and percentage of murder and honour killing of women has been the highest in all of the country with 1008 reported cases. This makes the terrifying reality crystal clear that 16.32 of cases of VAW in Punjab comprised of the most heinous crime known to man.

The capital crimes were followed by abductions or kidnapping of women with a total of 1698 reported cases making this the largest category of VAW crimes in Punjab at 29.68% of the total. Rape and gang-rape cases numbered 786 or 13.74% showing a rising trend.

Suicides are also seen to be on the rise in the province with 448 women forced to take their own lives making this a 7.84% recurrence among all the cases of VAW printed in newspapers from the province.

Other forms of VAW also appear to be rather high with 271 or 4.73% cases of domestic violence, 227 or 3.96% of sexual assault reported during the year under review. Stove burning and acid throwing are different forms of attempted murders that had a high prevalence with 33 (0.57%) and 42 (0.73%) cases recorded from the province.

Another 1220 cases reported from the area comprised of miscellaneous offenses showing a prevalence of 21.34% among all the VAW during the year in Punjab.

**Table 12: Number & Percentage of cases of VAW in Punjab during 2009**

Category of Crime	Total Number of Cases	%age of the Total
Murder	752	13.14%
Honour killing	245	4.28%
Abduction / kidnapping	1698	29.67%
Domestic violence	271	4.73%
Suicide	448	7.84%
Rape / Gang rape	786	13.75%
Sexual assault	227	3.96%
Stove burning	33	0.57%
Acid throwing	42	0.72%
Miscellaneous	1220	21.34%
<b>Break-Up of Miscellaneous</b>		
Attempt to kidnap	44	3.61%
Attempt to murder	53	4.34%
Attempt to suicide	266	21.80%
Attempt to rape	11	0.90%
Attempted Karo kari	11	0.90%
Early marriage	8	0.66%
Forced marriage	12	0.98%
Harassment	99	8.11%
Illegal custody	14	1.16%
Incest	5	0.41%
Injury	319	26.14%
Threat to life	57	4.67%
Torture	245	20.08%
Women trafficking	40	3.28%
Vanni	30	2.46%
Watta Satta	3	0.25%
Fraud	3	0.25%
<b>Total</b>	<b>5722</b>	<b>100%</b>

### 3.2. Number and Prevalence of VAW by District and Offence in Punjab:

If we divide the year 2009 in two, we can see that 3067 cases of VAW were reported during the first six months while another 2655 cases came to light in the second half of the year.

Table 13 bellow show the bi-annual distribution of cases of VAW reported from Punjab

**Table 13: Bi-annual distribution of VAW Cases in Punjab**

Bi-annual	Total
First six months	3067
Second six months	2655
Total	5722

The recorded percentage of the cases of VAW in the first bi-Annual was 68% while only 32% cases were reported in the second bi-Annual.

District-wise distribution of cases of VAW reported in Punjab is shown in Table 14 below with data on incidents in all the 35 districts of the province.

**Table 14: District-wise Date on VAW in Punjab in 2009**

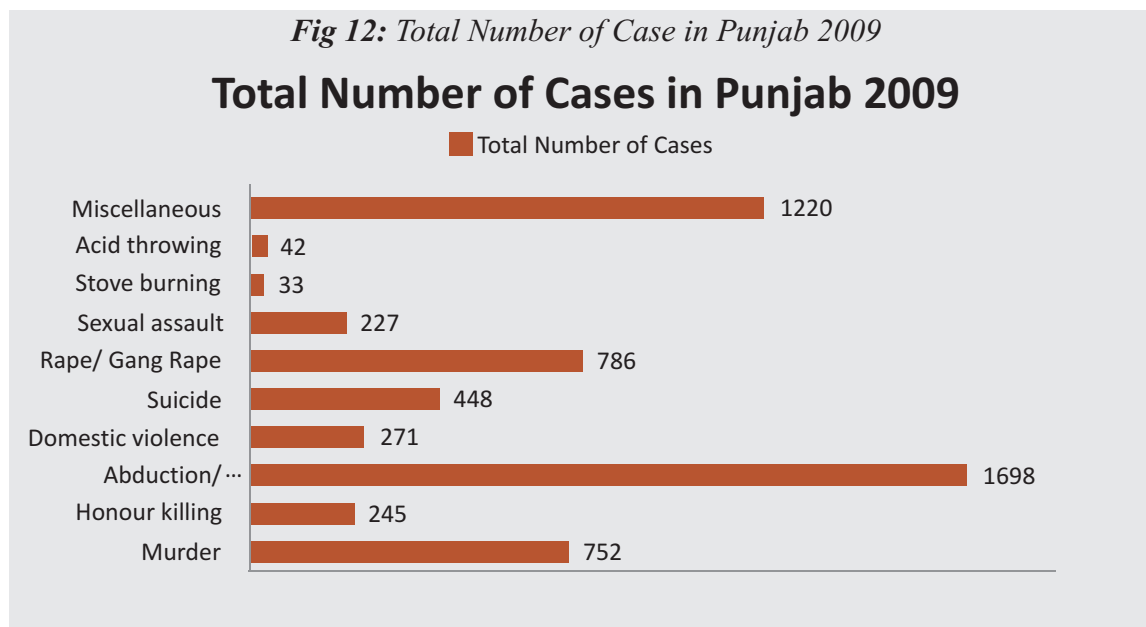
S #	District Name	Abduction/ Kidnapping	Acid Throwing	Domestic Violence	'Honour Killing'	Murder	Rape/ Gang Rape	Sexual Assault	Stove Burning	Suicide	Miscellaneous	Grand Total
1.	Attock	17	-	11	2	18	6	-	-	4	23	81
2.	Bahawalnagar	4	-	2	4	4	12	1	-	12	4	43
3.	Bahawalpur	1	2	1	4	2	4	3	1	7	2	32
4.	Bhakkar	1	-	1	1	1	1	-	-	1	2	7
5.	Chinot	4	-	2	5	7	6	-	-	2	6	32
6.	Chakwal	45	-	13	2	21	8	3	3	6	38	139
7.	D.g.khan	11	1	2	6	4	5	1	-	-	20	50
8.	Faisalabad	265	10	23	26	91	151	37	2	32	105	742
9.	Gujranwala	28	1	9	16	49	36	7	3	76	65	290
10.	Gujrat	28	-	7	2	20	8	1	-	14	9	89
11.	Hafizabad	20	-	-	4	13	16	2	-	8	8	71
12.	Jhang	31	2	-	17	24	27	12	-	9	23	145
13.	Jhelum	3	2	4	5	14	9	-	2	6	18	63
14.	Kasur	80	-	5	13	36	41	14	-	10	26	225
15.	Khanewal	34	-	13	6	18	25	4	-	9	47	156
16.	Khushab	11	-	1	5	6	5	6	-	-	18	53
17.	Lahore	372	2	30	23	96	73	23	2	65	224	910
18.	Layyah	7	1	1	1	2	2	1	-	2	1	20
19.	Lodhran	13	1	4	-	4	16	1	-	4	15	58
20.	Mandi Bahauddin	10	-	-	6	4	6	1	-	16	2	43
21.	Mianwali	1	-	1	1	10	4	2	-	13	7	39
22.	Multan	64	7	29	8	22	41	8	3	6	52	240
23.	Muzaffargarh	35	-	3	-	7	25	7	1	4	33	115
24.	Nankana Sahib	39	-	3	7	18	18	6	-	5	15	111
25.	Narowal	1	-	2	1	2	2	2	-	9	6	23
26.	Okara	36	-	4	7	25	26	4	1	5	18	126
27.	Pakpattan	8	-	1	3	11	6	7	-	5	-	42
28.	Rahimyar Khan	5	1	3	9	5	4	-	-	5	14	46
29.	Rajanpur	1	1	2	3	1	4	1	-	-	0	9
30.	Rawalpindi	169	3	24	4	53	23	1	9	8	58	352
31.	Sahiwal	14	2	3	5	17	11	3	3	13	18	89
32.	Sargodha	140	-	39	17	49	40	31	2	30	125	473
33.	Sheikhupura	88	1	4	15	40	46	11	-	26	28	259
34.	Sialkot	50	2	12	5	22	25	10	1	13	79	219
35.	Toba Tek Singh	22	1	4	17	20	23	5	-	18	49	159
36.	Verhari	40	2	8	6	16	31	12	-	5	51	171
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1698</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>271</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>752</b>	<b>786</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>448</b>	<b>1209</b>	<b>5722</b>

### 3.3. Prevalence of Major Categories of VAW in Punjab:

Punjab appears to be becoming the most dangerous province for women in Pakistan. The number of cases of VAW have been on the rise in the province. This is especially true in the case of women abductions and kidnappings during 2009. As many as 1698 women were abducted across the province in one year. The highest reported incidence was from Lahore with 372 cases. Faisalabad saw 265 women kidnapped and Rawalpindi reported 169 abductions. Sargodha registered 140 cases and neighbouring Sheikhpura revealed 88 kidnappings. Some 80 were abducted from Kasur, 64 from Multan, 50 from Sialkot and 45 from Chakwal. Remaining cases occurred in the rest of Punjab.

The data is shocking. It is hard to believe that 28 women were kidnapped on an average week. It is a scandal that four women were kidnapped in an average day in the province during the

*Fig 12: Total Number of Case in Punjab 2009*



year under review. Another alarming and improbable is the figure of women abductions from Islamabad. This is higher than what obtains from the provinces of KP and Balochistan where law enforcement is comparatively weaker and social traditions vitiate against women emancipation. According to cases monitored and recorded by the Aurat Foundation teams some 52 cases of women abductions took place in Islamabad which is 2.62% of all the cases in Pakistan during 2009. Compared to 13 abductions from Balochistan, 64 from KP and 160 cases in Sindh, the numbers are astounding.

In fact, this is the biggest VAW crime in Punjab that also appears to have a solid lead over the rest of the country for as many as 1698 incidents out of a total of 1987 cases all over Pakistan during 2009 took place in this one province.

One reasonable explanation can be police malpractice. It is commonly known that family honor is considered at stake if a woman goes away of her own will with someone with the intention to get married. This is often converted into an abduction case by the police at the family's behest. Almost all cases of marriage without family consent where the judiciary has extended relief to newly married couples show that police has registered abduction cases against the man involved.

This probability is further strengthened when we see that the highest reported cases of abduction of women are from the some of the major cities of Pakistan where urban life makes it difficult to take someone away against their will. Lahore leads the trend of abductions with 372 cases followed by 265 from Faisalabad. The pattern continues with 169 from Rawalpindi; 140 from Sargodha, 88 from Sheikhupura; 80 from Kasur and 64 from Multan.

According to the data collected, murder is the second highest form of reported VAW offence in Punjab. Statistics reveal murders mostly happening in urban centers of the province. Of the total 752 cases from Punjab, the highest reported crime rate was reported from Lahore with 96 murders followed by Faisalabad that saw 91 women killed. Rawalpindi, Gujranwala, Sheikhupura, Kasur and Multan also reported high frequency of the capital VAW crime.

Rather predictably, in a majority of the cases, the murderers were close male relatives of the women killed. On the average, two women were murdered in Punjab everyday during 2009.

Besides simple murders, Punjab also reported an alarming incidence of 'honour' killings with a total of 245 cases of VAW in this category of crime. Most cases of honour killing were reported from the rural and tribal regions of the provinces where *jirgas* and *panchayat* system still holds sway. On average, two women were killed in the name of honour across Punjab every week.

However, the concentration of 'honour' killings are once again seen in bigger cities although the majority did take place in far flung rural and tribal areas. Faisalabad appears to be a really troubled city despite its advanced industrial society – or perhaps because of it — with 26 reported 'honour' killings of women. Lahore comes a dubious second with 23 women killed in the name of honor. High numbers were also reported from Toba Tek Singh, Sargodha, Jhang, Sheikhupura, and Kasur. Of course, most 'honour' killings were reported from far flung regions of the province like Rahim Yar Khan, Rajanpur, Vehari, Okara, Narowal, Nankana Sahib, Layyah, D.G Khan, Chakwal and Attock.

Another 448 women took their own lives in the Punjab province. Cases of suicide by women were highest in Gujranwala where 76 women died in 2009. Lahore took third place with 65 lost women's lives. Faisalabad, Sargodha and Sheikupura were the other three hot spots in the Punjab province for women suicides.



Data shows that on an average 8.61 deaths of women resulted from suicide every week in the province. Other districts of Punjab also reported instances but the numbers were not as high and alarming as in these bigger cities. However, most of the suicide cases were reported from the rural areas as compared to the urban areas.

Punjab continues to shock sensitive observers when it comes to cases of VAW. Data manifests shocking showing that two women were made victims of rape and gang-rape during 2009 across the province. Little wonder that Punjab also took lead in rape and gang-rape cases of VAW with a total of 786 cases reported. Faisalabad registered 151 cases which is the highest number crime in the province. Some 73 shameful incidents took place in Lahore, 46 in Sheikhpura and 41 each in Multan and Kasur districts. With 40 cases in Sargodha and 36 in Gujranwala, women were hardly safe elsewhere in the province.

A total number of 42 acid throwing cases were reported from Punjab. Of these, 10 were reported from Faisalabad, 7 from Multan, 3 from Rawalpindi and 2 each from Vehari, Sialkot, Sahiwal, Lahore, and Jhelum, Jhang, and Bahawalpur districts.

Another 33 reported cases of stove burning in the province showed that the women in this province continue to suffer at the hands of their in-laws and callous husbands. Rawalpindi earned the special shame of leading this particular form of VAW with 9 of these cases. Chakwal, Gujranwala, Multan, and Sahiwal also reported three cases each.

Domestic violence also appeared to be on the rise in the province of Punjab with a total of 271 cases recorded from the 35 districts in the province. Sargodha took lead in domestic violence case with 39 recorded instances. Lahore followed with 30 cases and Multan with 29 incidents. There were another 24 cases in Rawalpindi, 23 in Faisalabad and 12 in Sialkot. Remaining incidents took place in other districts including Mianwali, Lodhran, Khushab, Jhang, Okara, and Narowal.

However, besides these major categories of cases of VAW, another 1220 reports recorded complaints of miscellaneous nature across Punjab. These pertained to vanni, sawara, custodial violence, torture, trafficking, child marriages, incest, threat to violence, sexual harassment, attempted murder, suicide and rape.

### **3.4. FIR Status of cases of VAW:**

It is a sad reflection on the justice and peace state of affairs in the province that formal police complaints were not registered against all the VAW offenses reported from the province. The FIR is the commonly known acronym for “First Information Report” that every police station in charge is obliged to register under law upon learning of a crime having taken place in the area. Data compiled by Aurat Foundation teams' shows that out of the 5,722 cases



reported only 4,464 cases were recorded in FIRs. This shows that police recorded only 78% of the total instances of VAW in the province. Some 5% or 285 cases were never registered by the police. Normally, the press reports lodging of FIRs diligently, yet, there was no evidence found in media reports on the FIR status of some 973 cases or 17% of all the reported instances of VAW in Punjab province.

**Table 15: FIR Status of cases of VAW in Punjab:**

<b>FIR Status</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Bi-Annual</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Bi-Annual</b>	<b>Total</b>
Registered	2358	2106	4464
Not Registered	185	100	285
No Information	524	449	973
<b>Total</b>	<b>3067</b>	<b>2655</b>	<b>5722</b>

### **3.5. Marital Status of women suffering VAW:**

It is important to note that every instance of VAW often involve more than one woman. This is reflected in the fact that out of the total 5,722 cases of VAW recorded in Punjab, the number of victims and survivors was greater at 6,507 in 2009.

Among these 6,507 victims and survivors of VAW crimes, only 2,606 were married. Since another 2,929 women were reported to be unmarried, it is easy to visualize the trend of targetting younger females in society. Among the rest, 145 victims were widows while 44 were divorced. No information was available on the marital status of the other 783 victims in cases of VAW across Punjab in 2009.

**Table 16: Marital Status of women suffering VAW:**

<b>Marital status</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Bi-annual</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Bi-annual</b>	<b>Total</b>
Unmarried	1485	1444	2929
Married	1406	1200	2606
Widow	80	65	145
Divorced	11	33	44
No information about status	520	263	783
<b>Total</b>	<b>3502</b>	<b>3005</b>	<b>6507</b>

### 3.6. Age Groups of victims/survivors of VAW:

The 5,722 reported VAW crimes from Punjab in 2009 involved 6507 victims and survivors of VAW. Among them 880 victims were between the age group of 0-18; 367 were of 19-36; 117 were above than 37 years. No information could be ascertained of remaining 5143 cases.

*Table 17: Age-Group wise distribution of VAW vicims/survivors*

<b>Age-Group</b>	<b>No. of Victims</b>
0-18	880
19-36	367
37 &above	117
No Information	5143
<b>Total</b>	<b>6507</b>

## **Section Four**

### **Overview of VAW Incidents in Sindh**

Geographically, Sindh is the third largest province of Pakistan, stretching about 579 km from north to south and 442 km (extreme) or 281 km (average) from east to west, with an area of 140,915 square kilometres (54,408 sq mi) of Pakistani territory. Sindh is bounded by the Thar Desert to the east, the Kirthar Mountains to the west, and the Arabian Sea in the south. In the centre is a fertile plain around the Indus River.

Sindh is located on the western corner of South Asia, bordering the Iranian plateau in the west. The neighbouring regions of Sindh are Balochistan to the west and north, Punjab to the north, Gujarat and Rajasthan to the southeast and east, and the Arabian Sea to the south. The main language is Sindhi.

Sindh is also locally known as the "Mehran". Different cultural and ethnic groups also reside in Sindh including Urdu-speaking Muslim refugees who migrated to Pakistan from India upon independence as well as the people migrated from other provinces after independence. The name is derived from Sanskrit, and was known to the Assyrians (as early as the seventh century BC) as Sinda, to the Greeks as Sinthus, to the Romans as Sindus, to the Persians as Abisind, to the Arabs as Al-Sind, and to the Chinese as Sintow. To the Javanese the Sindhis have long been known as the Santri. The Indus Valley civilization is the farthest visible outpost of archaeology in the abyss of prehistoric times.

The 1998 Census of Pakistan indicated a population of 30.4 million, the current population in 2009 is 51,337,129 million using a compound growth in the range of 2% to 2.8% since then. With just under half being urban dwellers, mainly found in Karachi, Hyderabad, Sukkur, Mirpurkhas, Nawabshah District, Umerkot and Larkana. Sindhi is the sole official language of Sindh since the 19th century. According to the 2008 Pakistan Statistical Year Book, Sindhi-speaking households make up 59.7% of Sindh's population; Urdu-speaking households make up 21.1%; Punjabi 7.0%; Pashto 4.2%; Balochi 2.1%; Saraiki 1.0% and other languages 4.9%.

Agriculture is very important in Sindh with cotton, rice, wheat, sugar cane, bananas, and mangoes as the most important crops. Sindh is the richest province in natural resources of gas, petrol, and coal.

Endowed with coastal access, Sindh is a major centre of economic activity in Pakistan and has a highly diversified economy ranging from heavy industry and finance centered in and around Karachi to a substantial agricultural base along the Indus. Manufacturing includes machine products, cement, plastics, and various other goods.

Sindh has the 2nd largest economy in Pakistan. Historically, Sindh's contribution to Pakistan's GDP has been between 30% to 32.7%. Its share in the service sector has ranged from 21% to 27.8% and in the agriculture sector from 21.4% to 27.7%. Performance wise, its best sector is the manufacturing sector, where its share has ranged from 36.7% to 46.5% [15]. Since 1972, Sindh's GDP has expanded by 3.6 times.

#### **4.1. Overall Cases of VAW in Sindh:**

A total of 1762 VAW incidents were recorded from the 23 districts of Sindh between January 01 to December 31, 2009.

##### **Segregation of data on the 1,762 cases of VAW in Sindh shows:**

535	cases of miscellaneous nature
288	cases of murder
284	cases of 'honor' killing
176	cases of suicide
160	cases of abduction and kidnapping
134	cases of domestic violence
122	cases of rape
44	cases of sexual assault
10	cases of stove burning
9	cases of acid throwing

Of the total of 1762 incidents, there were 284 cases of killing women for “family honour” in Sindh's rural areas. This shows women to be victims of patriarchal codes which condone killing women in the name of 'honour'. Another 288 cases of women murder were also reported from the province in the year under review. The prevalence of the capital crime in the provinces speaks volumes about the social turmoil in its advanced industrial and backward agrarian and tribal social units. 'Honour' sees women killed mostly in the tribal cultural belts bordering Balochistan.

Other forms of VAW in Sindh are also a matter of concern with 160 abductions and kidnappings taking place inside a year. The stress for women reflects in the 176 incidents of suicide reported from the province. Traditional VAW instances are also unchecked with 122 cases of rape and gang-rape taking place in 2009 within the provincial territories. Some 134 women fell a victim to domestic violence while another 44 reported sexual assault. Stove burning seem to be a serious concern in Sindh with 10 cases surfacing inside a year along with another nine brutal incidents of acid throwing reported by the media. The largest number of VAW incidents was miscellaneous in nature with a tally of 535 cases reported in

print from different parts of the province.

The table below shows murder to be the highest order of VAW in Sindh with 16.35% of plain and 16.11% of 'honour' kills in terms of ratio amongst the total cases. Taken together, murder and 'honour' killings show a shocking proportion of 32.45% of all the cases of VAW reported from the province.

The percentage ratios of other VAW show kidnapping and abduction recurring with a 9.08% frequency. Suicide has an even higher instance forming 9.99% of all cases of VAW. Rape and gang-rape are high at 6.93% and domestic violence appears to be on the rise with 7.61% of all the cases of VAW falling in this category. Sexual assault forms 2.49% of the total while stove burning contributes to 0.56% of VAW in the province.

Miscellaneous VAW crimes form a large chunk of the whole being 30.36% of the total. Looking at the ratios of this category of VAW in Sindh alone, we find attempted suicide with 141 cases forming 26.35% of the total. Threats of violence are high at 117 incidents being 21.86% of all the crimes under this head. It is no relief that attempted murders were 108 in number or 20.18% of the total miscellaneous VAW crimes in the province. Custodial violence and vanni along with other customary practices make up the rest with a contribution of 92 case or 17.19% and 77 cases or 14.39% respectively.

**Table 18: Number & Percentage of Cases of VAW in Sindh during 2009**

Category of Crime	Total Number of Cases	% age of the Total
Murder	288	16.34%
'Honour' killing	284	16.11%
Abduction/ Kidnapping	160	9.08%
Domestic violence	134	7.60%
Suicide	176	9.98%
Rape / Gang rape	122	6.92%
Sexual assault	44	2.49%
Stove burning	10	0.56%
Acid throwing	9	0.51%
Misc	535	30.36%
<b>Break Up of Miscellaneous</b>		
Attempted murder	108	20.18%
Attempted suicide	141	26.35%
Threat to violence	117	21.86%
Custodial violence	92	17.19%
Vanni / Customary practices	77	14.39%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1762</b>	<b>100%</b>

This tells that the recorded percentage of the cases of VAW in the first and second Bi-Annuals stand at 49% and 51% respectively during 2009.

**Table 19: Bi-Annual Distribution of data in Sindh**

No. of Cases	Total	%
1st six months	835	49%
2nd six months	927	51%
<b>Total</b>	<b>835</b>	<b>100%</b>

#### 4.2. Number and Prevalence of VAW by District and Offence:

The quarter-wise distribution of cases of VAW in Sindh is illustrated in statistics below. Of the total cases of VAW in the province, 835 took place in the first six months of the year 2009 while another 927 crimes occurred in the second six months of the year under review.

table below shows comprehensive data on VAW incidents in all the 23 districts of Sindh province during the year 2009.

**Table 20: District-wise VAW Data in 2009 from Sindh**

S #	District Name	Abduction/ Kidnapping	Acid Throwing	Domestic Violence	Honour Killing	Murder	Rape/Gang Rape	Sexual Assault	Stove Burning	Suicide	Miscellaneous	Grand Total
1.	Badin	3	-	-	4	-	2	1	-	7	45	68
2.	Dadu	8	-	6	8	14	13	1	1	14	61	126
3.	Ghotki	19	2	12	24	-	12	3	-	27	22	121
4.	Hyderabad	-	1	11	6	5	8	2	-	8	18	59
5.	Jacobabad	41	-	23	36	38	14	1	1	14	31	199
6.	Jamshoro	-	-	-	5	6	4	1	-	2	38	56
7.	Karachi	2	2	4	21	41	12	1	3	16	35	137
8.	Kashmore	-	-	3	15	15	5	1	-	13	54	106
9.	Khairpur Mirs	21	3	1	34	20	8	1	2	8	37	135
10.	Larkana	13	-	4	31	52	18	2	-	21	56	197
11.	Matyari	-	-	-	4	2	-	-	-	4	8	18
12.	Mirpurkhas	4	1	-	22	8	-	1	1	2	6	45
13.	Naushahro Feroze	9	-	-	20	12	1	-	-	7	12	61
14.	Nawabshah	1	-	-	9	8	-	2	-	3	12	35
15.	Qambar ali Khan Shahdad Kot	-	-	-	3	17	1	1	1	2	8	33
16.	Sanghar	-	-	-	2	2	2	2	-	2	6	16
17.	Shikarpur	4	-	32	8	2	3	5	1	1	2	58
18.	Sukkur	31	-	21	32	46	8	2	-	25	78	243
19.	Tando Allahayar	2	-	5	-	-	1	11	-	-	-	19
20.	Tando Muhammad Khan	2	-	6	-	-	2	4	-	-	-	14
21.	Tharparkar	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	3
22.	Thatta	-	-	4	-	-	6	1	-	-	-	11
23.	Umerkot	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	6	-	8
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>535</b>	<b>1762</b>

### 4.3. Major Categories of VAW in Sindh:

The conflicts between tradition and modernity are taking the lives of a lot of women in Sindh. Murder of women has been the highest recorded VAW offence in Sindh with 288 cases. This is closely tailed by 284 cases of 'honour' killing reported from the province. Both murder and 'honour' killing are acts of intentional denials of Right to Life to women. The only difference is the motivation behind the two. 'Honour' killing is distinguished from plain murder solely on the grounds of tradition and cultural practices condoning taking lives to save family 'honour' in a rural or tribal patriarchal arrangement.

It is a serious point to be noted that the two types of murder form a ratio of 32.45% among the total VAW crimes committed in 2009 in the province of Sindh. The highest reported cases of murder were from Larkana with reported 52 women murders in one year. It was followed by Jacobabad with 48 women's lives taken and Sukkur where another 46 were murdered. There were another 41 murder cases reported from Karachi but seen in proportion to its nearly 12 million population, the ratio is far less than say for the 20 murders that happened in Khairpur Mirs or 17 in Qambar Ali Khan or 14 in Dadu that are but small towns in population terms.

Sindh appears to have retained its status as a hot spot for killing women in the name of 'honour'. 'Honour' killing remains a major crime in the province as is evident from the VAW data obtaining from the year 2009. The heinous crime in the name of misguided family 'honour', have the second highest percentage of occurrence among all the reported cases in the province. Tribal traditions and a continuous hold of ancient jirga and panchyat systems are behind the murder of 284 women that were killed in the name of honour during the year.

The geographical location of these VAW crimes are enough to indicate the backward nature of the motivations. The main places of occurrence for these 'honour' killing were the bordering districts of Sindh and Balochistan. As many as 36 cases were reported from Jacobabad, 34 from Khairpur Mirs, 32 from Sukkur, 31 from Larkana and another 24 from Ghotki during 2009. **If ever there was a need for behavioral change interventions for social good, these are the districts that must be focussed for effective and lasting changes in worldviews.**

The rate of suicide is also alarmingly high in Sindh with 9.98% or a total of 176 cases of women committing suicide taking place in the province out of a total of 1762 cases of VAW in Sindh during 2009. The highest reported instances of women suicides originated from Ghotki where 27 cases were registered. Another 25 were said to have committed suicide in Sukkur, 21 in Larkana, 16 in Karachi, 14 in Dadu and another 13 gave up their life in Kashmore district situated on the provincial border with Balochistan.

The number of innocent women falling victim to rape & gang-rape crimes have increased

considerably in the last year. Out of the 928 cases of rape and gang-rape reported from across the country, 122 crimes took place in the province of Sindh. The highest reported instance was reported from the very districts where murders and killing women in the name of honour also recorded new and alarming heights. Rapes and gang-rapes seem to form a close nexus with murders as 18 incidents took place in Larkana, 14 in Jacobabad, 13 in Dadu, and 12 in Ghotki. Another 12 women were attacked in Karachi as well.

There were 10 cases of stove burning reported from the province of Sindh in 2009. Of these, three took place in Karachi and two in Khairpur Mirs. Dadu, Jacobabad, Mirpur Khas, Qambar Ali Khan and Sukkur reported one case each in the last year.

Domestic violence targeted 134 women all over Sindh in 2009. The highest number of cases was reported from Shikarpur with 32 registered instances. Another 23 surfaced in Jacobabad. Some 12 women suffered domestic violence in Sukkur and 6 in the Dadu district.

Vanni, sawara, custodial violence, torture, trafficking, child marriages, incest, threat to violence, sexual harassment, attempted murder, suicide and rape cases numbered 535 under the miscellaneous category. Cases were recorded from all over the province of Sindh in 2009.

#### **4.4. FIR Status of cases of VAW:**

According to the reported data, only 859 cases were registered with the police while no formal reports were entered for 665 cases of violence against women in Sindh in 2009. This is a high instance of denying justice to women who fell victim to VAW crimes last year in Sindh. The issue acquires sinister tones when seen in the light of the fact that another 238 incidents had no information on their FIR status in the reports carried by the media.

*Table 21: FIR Status of Victims/Survivors in Sindh*

<b>FIR Status</b>	<b>Total</b>
Registered	859
Not Registered	665
No. Information	235
<b>Total</b>	<b>1762</b>

#### **4.5. Marital Status of Victims/Survivors:**

Out of the total of 1762 cases of VAW in Sindh, the number of reported victims was 2060 during 2009. Among them some 998 women were reported to be married while 634 women were said to be single. No information was available on the marital status of the remaining 428 victims of VAW crimes in Sindh.



**Table 22: Marital Status of Victims/Survivors in Sindh**

<b>Marital Status</b>	<b>Total</b>
Married	998
Unmarried	634
No. Information	428
<b>Total</b>	<b>2060</b>

**4.6. Age Groups of Victims/Survivors:**

Out of the total 2060 women that suffered VAW in Sindh, 612 were of 18 year or less in age. Some 547 women were in the age bracket between 19-36 years. The remaining 419 women were all over 37 years old. However, no information was available on the ages of some 482 women from the printed reports.

**Table 23: Age Groups of Victims/Survivors in Sindh**

<b>Age Group</b>	<b>No. of Victims</b>
0-18	612
19-36	547
37above	419
No Information	482
<b>Total</b>	<b>2060</b>



## **Section Five**

### **Overview of VAW Incidents in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa**

In April 2010, the name of North West Frontier Province was changed to "Khyber Pakhtunkhwa" by the Constitution (Eighteenth Amendment) Act, 2010, which was unanimously passed by both Houses of the Parliament of Pakistan, namely the National Assembly of Pakistan and the Senate of Pakistan, and received the assent of the President of Pakistan on 19 April 2010 to become part of the Constitution of Pakistan.

This report has used the new nomenclature although the data on VAW pertains to year 2009 for the province then known as North-West Frontier Province. The province borders Afghanistan to the north-west, Gilgit-Baltistan to the north-east, Azad Jammu & Kashmir to the east, the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) to the west and south, and Punjab and the Islamabad Capital Territory to the south-east. The principal language is Pashto and the provincial capital is Peshawar.

KP is divided into three administrative regions areas: Settled Areas, the Provincially Administered Tribal Areas (PATA), and the Federal Administered Tribal Areas (FATA). The famous Khyber Pass links the province to Afghanistan, while the Kohalla Bridge is a major crossing point over the Jhelum River in the east. The province has an area of 28,773 mi<sup>2</sup> or (74,521 km<sup>2</sup>) and includes Hazara Division, the western point of the Karakoram Highway.

The region varies in topography from dry rocky areas in the south to forests and green plains in the north. The climate can be extreme with intensely hot summers to freezing cold winters. Despite these extremes in weather, agriculture remains important and viable in the area.

According to the 1998 census, the population of KP was approximately 17 million, of whom 52% are males and 48% are females.

Some manufacturing and high tech investments in Peshawar has helped improve job prospects for many locals, while trade in the province involves nearly every product. The bazaars in the province are renowned throughout Pakistan mainly because of smuggled goods from Afghanistan and beyond.

#### **5.1. Overall Cases of VAW in KP:**

A total number of 655 incidents of VAW occurred in 28 districts of KP and FATA during January 01 to December 31, 2009.

**Out of a total of 799 cases of VAW in KP, there were:**

266	cases of murder
163	cases of domestic violence
93	cases of miscellaneous nature
43	cases of suicide
7	cases of rape
4	cases of stove burning
01	case of acid throwing

Murder is the biggest crime in KP VAW instances. The percentage of murder cases is alarming forming 40.61% of all reported VAW crimes from the province in 2009. Domestic violence is also high at 24.88% manifesting the domination of Pashtun society by males. Women often are not even allowed outside their homes even in emergencies if a male household member does not chaperone them. Suicide rates are high forming 6.58% of all the cases of VAW from the province. Being a frontier region and subjected to heavy warfare for many years, the rate of abductions and kidnappings continue to climb and formed 9.77% of all the reported cases of VAW in 2009. Tradition conflicting with modernity is evident in a higher instance of 'honour' killing that form 2.14% of all the VAW crimes in this province. Rest of the cases being 14.19% was of miscellaneous nature.

*Table 24: Number & Percentage of Cases of VAW in KP during 2009*

Category of Crime	Total Number of Cases	%age of the Total
Murder	266	40.61%
'Honour' killing	14	2.14%
Abduction / Kidnapping	64	9.77%
Domestic violence	163	24.88%
Suicide	43	6.58%
Rape	7	1.06%
Stove burning	4	0.61%
Acid throwing	1	0.16%
Misc	93	14.19%
<b>Break Up of Miscellaneous</b>		
Attempted murder	23	24.73%
Attempted suicide	3	3.22%
Attempted kidnap	4	4.30%
Hurt and Body injury	60	64.52%
Vanni / Customary practices	2	2.51%
Women trafficking	1	1.07%
<b>Total</b>	<b>655</b>	<b>100%</b>

## 5.2. Number and Prevalence of VAW by District and Offence:

Of the 655 VAW crimes reported from the province in 2009, 327 took place during the first half of the year. The remaining 328 cases were reported in the second Bi-Annual of the year under review. The recorded percentages of cases of VAW from the first and second bi-Annuals were equal being 50% in each half of the year during 2009.

**Table 25: Bi-Annual Distribution of Data in KP**

No. of cases	Total	%
1st six months	327	50%
2nd six months	328	50%
<b>Total</b>	<b>655</b>	<b>100%</b>

The table below shows the data on incidents of VAW in 28 districts of KP.

**Table 26: District-wise Date on VAW in KP in 2009**

S #	District Name	Abduction/ Kidnapping	Acid Throwing	Domestic Violence	Honour Killing	Murder	Rape	Stove Burning	Suicide	Miscellaneous	Grand Total
1.	Abbottabad	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	3
2.	Bajour Agency (Fata)	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	3
3.	Bannu	1	-	1	-	4	-	-	2	4	12
4.	Battagram	-	-	3	1	3	1	-	-	-	8
5.	Buner	-	-	2	-	4	-	-	-	-	6
6.	Charsadda	-	-	6	-	19	-	-	6	2	33
7.	Chitral	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	3	1	7
8.	D.I.Khan	1	-	2	-	9	-	-	2	3	17
9.	Hangu	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10.	Haripur	-	-	3	-	8	1	-	5	2	19
11.	Karak	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	1	-	7
12.	Khyber Agency (Fata)	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	2	6
13.	Kohat	-	-	2	-	14	-	-	2	2	20
	Kurram Agency	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	2
14.	Kohistan	-	-	3	1	2	-	-	-	-	6
15.	Lakki Marwat	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	5	1	9
16.	Lower Dir	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	2
17.	Malakand p.a	1	-	2	-	6	1	-	-	-	10
18.	Mansehra	-	-	-	-	12	-	-	2	4	18
19.	Mardan	3	-	8	2	45	-	-	5	4	67
20.	Mohamand Agency (Fata)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
21.	N.W.Agency (Fata)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
22.	Nowshera	2	1	8	3	21	1	2	2	6	46
23.	Peshawar	56	-	110	5	72	3	1	7	56	310
24.	Shangla	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
25.	Swabi	-	-	7	-	20	-	-	1	3	31
26.	Swat	-	-	4	-	4	-	-	-	2	10
27.	Tank	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
28.	Upper Dir	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>655</b>

### **5.3. Prevalence of Major Categories of VAW in KP:**

The data collected by Aurat Foundation teams reveals murder of women to be the biggest crime in KP with a frightening frequency of 40.61% among the total VAW incidents. This is much higher than the percentage prevalence of this crime in any of the other provinces.

Looking at the data and origin of murder cases from KP in 2009, it appears that Peshawar is the most violent city in the province. There were 72 murder cases reported from Peshawar in 2009. Mardan was perhaps even more violent with 45 murders for it is much smaller in population than Peshawar. Nowshetra reported 21 murders while Swabi, Charsadda and Kohat claimed 20, 19 and 14 women's lives respectively in the year 2009.

Suicide remains a big concern in KP as well for it follows similar trends with the rest of the country. The highest reported cases of suicide from the major cities in KP included 7 cases from Peshawar, 6 from Charsadda, 5 from Mardan, 4 from Nowshetra and another 3 from Chitral.

Though abduction of women is not a frequent crime in KP compared to Punjab, there have been 64 cases of abduction and kidnapping reported in KP during 2009. The highest number of abductions and kidnappings in the KP were concentrated in Peshawar where 56 cases were registered in the last year. Mardan reported six instances and D.I. Khan another three cases.

Aurat Foundation research team recorded a total of 928 cases of rape and gang rape from all over the country. Only 7 of these crimes were reported from the KP province. The highest reported number of rape crimes was in Peshawar with three cases while one incident occurred in each of the Battagram, Haripur, Malakand and Nowshetra districts during 2009. One plausible explanation of this appreciably low occurrence is perhaps the tribal orientation of local culture where blood vendettas are feared and hence effectively shield women from this shameful crime.

It can be said with a reasonable degree of confidence that domestic violence cases are grossly under-reported from the province of KP. The total segregation of women in Pashtun culture and a traditional license to men allowing them rights to chastise their women would indicate a much instance than what is reflected in the 163 cases reported in 2009. The largest instance of domestic violence was in Peshawar with 110 reported cases. Battagram, Charsadda, Mardan, Nowshetra, Mansehra, Lower dir and some other districts also reported cases of domestic violence albeit in low numbers.

Only 93 cases of miscellaneous nature surfaced in the KP during 2009. These crimes included vanni, sawara, custodial violence, torture, trafficking, child marriages, incest, threat to violence, sexual harassment, attempted murder, suicide & rape. The recorded

miscellaneous cases showed women hurt or beat in 60 VAW crimes making is the largest chunk among the miscellaneous category at 64.52% of the total. Another 23 or 24.73% cases reported attempted murder. Attempts at kidnapping and suicide were 4 or 4.30% and 3 or 3.22% respectively. There were two cases of VAW offenses under customary practices marking a 2.51% ratio in the sub-category. One instance of trafficking was also reported showing the incident to have a 1.07% recurrence among miscellaneous VAW crimes reported from the KP in 2009.

#### 5.4. FIR Status of the cases of VAW in KP:

Police performance assuring justice to VAW victims in the KP province was not very good as gauged from the fact that out of the 655 cases reported only 421 were formally registered and First Information Reports (FIR) entered in books. No FIRs were registered in against 127 cases of VAW reported by the media. And another 107 incidents had no information on the FIR status of the crime.

*Table 27: FIR Status of the cases of VAW in KP*

<b>FIR Status</b>	<b>Total</b>
Registered	421
Not Registered	127
No. Information	107
<b>Total</b>	<b>655</b>

#### 5.5. Marital Status of Victims/Survivors in the cases of VAW in KP:

Some 701 women were identified as victims or survivors in the 655 cases of VAW reported from the KP during 2009. Amongst these 701 women some 412 were married and 195 reported as unmarried. No information was available on the marital status of the remaining 94 VAW victims or survivor across the province.

*Table 28: Marital Status of Victims/Survivors in Sindh*

<b>Marital Status</b>	<b>Total</b>
Married	412
Unmarried	195
No. Information	94
<b>Total</b>	<b>701</b>

#### 5.6. Age Groups of Victims or Survivors:

The 655 cases of VAW identified 701 victims from KP during the year 2009. Age- wise breakup of these women showed 97 to be up to 18 years of age while another 122 victims

were found to be between 19-36 years old. Some 47 women were above 37 years of age. However, age determination was not possible for a majority of the women for there was no information available for 435 women that suffered from VAW in the province in 2009.

**Table 29:** *Age Groups of Victims/Survivors in KP*

<b>Age-Group (Years)</b>	<b>Total</b>
0-18	97
19-36	122
37&above	47
No. Information	435
<b>Total</b>	<b>701</b>



## **Section Six**

### **Overview of VAW Incidents in Balochistan**

By surface area, Balochistan is the largest of the four provinces of Pakistan at 347,190 km<sup>2</sup> (134,051 mi<sup>2</sup>), which composes approximately 44% of the total land area of Pakistan. The population density is very low due to the mountainous terrain and scarcity of water.

Balochistan has a population of around 12 million inhabitants, which makes up approximately 5% of the Pakistani population. According to the 2008 Pakistan Statistical Year Book, households whose primary language is Balochi represent 54.8% of Balochistan's population; 29.6% of households speak Pashto; 5.6% speak Sindhi; 2.5% speak Punjabi; 2.4% speak Saraiki; 1.0% speak Urdu; and 4.1% speak some other language at home. It is not only the largest province of Pakistan but it is also the poorest and least populated. The southern region is known as Makran. The central region is known as Kalat.

The capital, Quetta, is located in the most densely populated district in the northeast of the province. It is situated in a river valley near the border with Afghanistan, with a road to Kandahar in the northwest. At Gwadar on the coast of the Arabian Sea, the Pakistani government has built a large port with Chinese help.

Balochistan culture is primarily tribal, deeply patriarchal and conservative. Baloch society is dominated by tribal chieftains called Mirs, Sardars and Nawabs, who are the ruling elite of Balochistan. 'Honour' killings are commonplace but discouraged by the majority of the population.

In one recent incident in August 2008, the Asian Human Rights Commission reported that five women (including three teenagers) in a remote village had been beaten, shot and buried alive in a ditch for the crime of seeking to choose their own husbands. One of the tribesmen allegedly involved was the younger brother of a provincial minister, and local police therefore refused to take any action. After human rights activists brought the case to national and international attention many prominent Baloch leaders and politicians defended the killings. One prominent Parliamentarian was quoted as saying, "These are centuries-old traditions, and I will continue to defend them. Only those who indulge in immoral acts should be afraid."

But many Baloch literate are against the horrific crimes which took place in Balochistan. According to majority of Baloch, the person or tribe head should be brought to the court and must be punished. Many Baloch or Balochis have denied the fact that Karo Kari is part of Balochi culture. They claim it was a nomadic cultural practice which was stopped many years ago, but because of poor administration by the Pakistani government and to

demilitarize the Baloch, such acts are now taking place.

The economy of the province is largely based upon the production of natural gas, coal and minerals. Balochistan's share of the national economy has ranged between 3.7% to 4.9%. Since 1972, Balochistan's economy has grown in size by 2.7 times. Balochistan is rich in mineral resources and is the second major supplier of natural gas after the Sindh province.

It is located at the south-eastern edge of the Iranian plateau. It strategically bridges the Middle East and Southwest Asia to Central Asia and South Asia, and forms the closest oceanic frontage for the land-locked countries of Central Asia. The Sulaiman Mountains dominate the northeast corner and the Bolan Pass is a natural route into Afghanistan towards Kandahar. Much of the province south of the Quetta region is sparse desert terrain with pockets of towns mostly near rivers and streams.

### **6.1. Overall Cases of VAW in Balochistan:**

The study data collected a total of 237 incidents of VAW that occurred in all the 28 districts of Balochistan between 1 January and 31 December 2009.

#### **Out of a total of 237 cases of VAW in Balochistan, there were:**

88	cases of miscellaneous nature
59	cases of 'honour' killing
39	cases of murder
22	cases of domestic violence
13	cases of abduction and kidnapping
10	cases of suicide
4	cases of rape
1	case of sexual assault
1	cases of stove burning

Steeped in tradition and run by tribal chieftains, the province of Balochistan has a horrible record when it comes to oppressing their women. Out of a total of 237 VAW incidents reported in the press during 2009 an astounding 59 cases pertained to 'honour' killing of women. This is further aggravated when seen that the next biggest VAW crime in the province had been murder with 39 women killed during the year. Put together this brings the tally of dead women in Balochistan to 98 in just one year. This is a greater than 42% occurrence of the most vicious of VAW crimes known.

The province of Balochistan has suffered from neglect ever since it joined Pakistan. The state

of Pakistan had left the province in the hands of the local chieftains and Nawabs to run their fiefdoms as they pleased following ancient tribal customs. Women have no rights under the Baloch cultural codes and are considered the property of their men. Most crimes are decided and punished by councils of the elders that follow cultural traditions mostly in total contrast to modern notions of justice and equality. Little wonder that a lot of women lose their lives in this backward culture and extremely under-developed region of Pakistan.

Other major VAW crimes recorded from the province included 13 cases of abductions and kidnapping and 4 cases of rape or gang-rape. The year also saw some 10 incidents of suicide and one case of stove burning. Another 22 cases reported domestic violence and one report brought to light a sexual Assault. The remaining 88 cases were of miscellaneous nature in 2009 across the province of Balochistan.

Analyzing this data shows us that the percentage of 'honour' killing is the highest 24.89% among all recorded cases of VAW from the province. This is followed by murder at 16.45% of the total number of incidents subjecting women to violence in Balochistan. Abductions and kidnappings form another 5.48% along with domestic violence that constitutes 9.28% of all the known cases of VAW in this province. Suicide is a major VAW concern with 4.21% of all cases reporting its occurrence. Stove burning shows a 0.42% and rape another 1.68% presence in the mix of VAW from Balochistan. Sexual assault factors 0.42%. Miscellaneous VAW crimes figured in 37.13% of all the instances recorded in 2009.

Among the 88 cases of miscellaneous nature recorded, custodial violence cases numbered 44 representing 50% of all in this head. Threat to violence numbered 36 constituting 40.91% of miscellaneous natured VAW from Balochistan while attempted murder with 8 cases showed an 11% in this sub-category.

**Table 30: Number & Percentage of Cases of VAW in Balochistan during 2009**

Category of Crime	Total Number of Cases	%age of the Total
Murder	39	16.45%
'Honour' killing	59	24.89%
Abduction/ Kidnapping	13	5.48%
Domestic violence	22	9.28%
Suicide	10	4.21%
Rape	4	1.68%
Stove burning	1	0.42%
Sexual assault	1	0.42%
Miscellaneous	88	37.13%
<b>Break-Up of Miscellaneous</b>		
Attempted murder	8	9.09%
Custodial violence	44	50%
Threat to violence	36	40.91%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>100%</b>

## 6.2. Number and Prevalence of VAW by District and Offence:

The occurrence of cases of VAW in Balochistan during the year was heavier during the first six months recording 174 incidents. In the second Bi-Annual another 63 reports were registered across the province. Thereby, the recorded percentage of cases of VAW in the first Bi-Annual came to 74%. It was recorded at 26% in the second Bi-Annual.

**Table 31: Bi-Annual Distribution of Data in Balochistan**

No. of cases	Total	%
1st six months	174	74%
2nd six months	63	26%
<b>Total</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>100%</b>

The table below shows the data on incidents of VAW in 28 districts of Balochistan during the year 2009.

**Table 32: District-wise Date on VAW in Balochistan in 2009**

S #	District Name	Abduction/ Kidnapping	Acid Throwing	Domestic Violence	'Honor' Killing	Murder	Rape	Sexual Assault	Stove Burning	Suicide	Miscellaneous	Grand Total
1.	Awaran	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2.	Barkhan	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	2
3.	Bolan	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	3
4.	Chagi	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5.	Dera Bugti	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
6.	Gwadar	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7.	Jaffarabad	1	-	3	17	5	-	-	-	1	1	28
8.	Jhal Magsi	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
9.	Kalat	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3
10.	Kech	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	4
11.	Kharan	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
12.	Khuzdar	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2
13.	Killa Abdullah	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	3	4
14.	Killa Saifullah	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15.	Kohlu	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
16.	Lasbela	2	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	6
17.	Loralai	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
18.	Mastung	-	-	-	3	1	-	-	-	-	2	6
19.	Musakhel	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20.	Naseerabad	1	-	2	20	6	-	-	-	-	3	32
21.	Noshki	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	3
22.	Panjgur	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2
23.	Pishin	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
24.	Quetta	4	-	9	3	19	2	1	1	5	75	119
25.	Sibi	3	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	1	1	10
26.	Washuk	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
27.	Zhob	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
28.	Ziarat	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>237</b>

### **6.3. Prevalence of Major Categories of VAW in Balochistan:**

The crime of 'honour' killing has spread like an epidemic in some districts of Balochistan. The incidence of 59 cases of 'honour' killing of women out of the total reported 604 cases from across Pakistan shows a much higher proportion when seen in the context of Balochistan's extremely low demographic data. Accordingly, the prevalence viz. demography would indicate a 100% increase over the rest of the areas comprising Pakistan.

Not surprisingly, most of these cases are found to be concentrated in rural and tribal areas where jirga system and the customary law take precedence over constitutional law. Districts Naseerabad and Jaffarabad reported the highest number of 'honour' killing with 20 cases each in 2009. Another six incidents took place in district Jhal Magsi and five in district Sibi. Three cases each were reported in districts Quetta, and Mastung as well.

Over and above 'honour' killings, murder too has come up as a major VAW crime in Balochistan. There were as many as 39 registered cases of murder in 2009 across Balochistan. The highest incident was reported from Quetta where 19 women were killed during 2009. Naseerabad and Jaffarabad also added six and five murders each to their high tally of honor killings.

Abduction of women, rape and suicide are on the lower side of crime graph in Balochistan as compared to Punjab. There were a total of 13 cases of abduction in Balochistan. Of these, four took place in Quetta, Three in Sibbi and two in Lasbela district of the province.

Balochistan also registered 10 cases of women committing suicide in 2009. The highest reported were five cases from Quetta and one each in Sibi, Lasbela, Jaffarabad, and Barkhan districts. Incidents of rape and gang rape were also reported from Balochistan, but their number is not alarming compared to other offenses with only four reports registered across the province. The highest number of cases was reported from Quetta with two incidents registered by police.

There was one incident of stove burning that also happened in Quetta city during 2009.

As many as 22 cases of domestic violence were also recorded in the province of Balochistan. The highest number of these incidents was reported from Quetta where nine reports were filed. Panjgarh, Naseerabad, Lasbela and Kalat also reported a few incidents of domestic violence.

Some 88 cases of vanni, sawara, custodial violence, torture, trafficking, child marriages, incest, threat to violence, sexual harassment, attempted murder, suicide and rape were also

reported from across the province and have been clubbed together under the category of miscellaneous VAW crimes during 2009.

#### 6.4. FIR Status of cases of VAW:

According to compiled data, FIRs were registered only in 113 cases reported by the media. No FIRs were registered against 63 reported cases and as many as 61 cases had no on their FIR status during 2009.

*Table 33: FIR Status of the cases of VAW in Balochistan*

<b>FIR Status</b>	<b>Total</b>
Registered	113
Not Registered	63
No. Information	61
<b>Total</b>	<b>237</b>

#### 6.5. Marital Status of Victims/Survivors:

Out of the total of 237 cases of VAW during 2009 some 280 victims were identified in Balochistan. Reports showed that some 118 women were married. Another 59 women were unmarried. And there was no marital status confirmation available for the other 103 women victims and survivors of cases of VAW in Balochistan.

*Table 34: Marital Status of Victims/Survivors in Balochistan*

<b>Marital Status</b>	<b>Total</b>
Married	118
Unmarried	59
No. Information	103
<b>Total</b>	<b>280</b>

#### 6.6. Age Groups of Victims/Survivors in the cases of VAW in Balochistan:

Data collection teams at Aurat Foundation tried to identify age groups for all the 280 women reported to have suffered VAW in the Balochistan province. Analysis of available data showed that 38 women were up to 18 years of age while 47 victims were in the age group of 19-36 years. Another 23 women were above 37 years old. However, no information was available to ascertain age for some 172 victims and survivors of VAW crimes in Balochistan during 2009.

*Table 35: Age Group distribution of Victims/Survivors in Balochistan*

<b>Age-Group (Years)</b>	<b>Total</b>
0-18	38
19-36	47
37&above	23
No. Information	172
<b>Total</b>	<b>280</b>

## Section Seven

### Overview of VAW Incidents in Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT)

Islamabad is the capital of Pakistan. It is located in the Pothohar Plateau in the north of the country, within the Islamabad Capital Territory. It is the tenth largest city in Pakistan and home to an estimated population of 1.74 million in 2009.

The region has historically been a part of the crossroads of Punjab and the North-West Frontier Province. Islamabad is one of the greenest and most well-planned cities of South Asia. The city was built during the 1960s to replace Karachi as Pakistan's capital. It is considered the cleanest city in Pakistan.

The capital area of the Islamabad city is 906 square kilometres (350 sq mi). A further 2,717 square kilometres (1,049 sq mi) area is known as the Specified Area, with the Margala Hills in the north and northeast. The southern portion of the city is an undulating plain. It is drained by the Kurang River, on which the Rawal Dam is located.

Besides the Federal Government Secretariat and Agencies, most of Pakistan's state-owned companies are also based in Islamabad. Islamabad is a net contributor to the Pakistani economy, as whilst having only 0.8% of the country's population, it contributes 1% to the country's GDP.

#### 7.1. Overall Cases of VAW in ICT:

There were a total of 172 incidents of VAW in Islamabad during 2009. Below is a brief breakdown of these cases into different categories of VAW crimes:

52	cases of abduction/kidnapping
41	cases of miscellaneous nature
39	cases of murder
18	cases of domestic violence
9	cases of rape
6	cases of suicide
2	cases of honour killing
2	cases of attempted murder
2	cases of sexual assault
2	cases of stove burning
1	case of acid throwing

Cases of abduction and kidnapping recorded the highest ratio among total VAW crimes



reported in Islamabad with a share of 37.80% in 2009. Murder and threat to violence had the next biggest share with 9.57% recurrence in Islamabad. Torture recorded a 7.66% prevalence rate. Rape cases reflected a ratio of 2.39% in all the VAW crimes take took place in the capital territory during 2009. The city of *Babus* also showed a hefty sexual assault percentage at 3.83% followed on the heels by women suicides that formed 3.35% of the total reported cases. Custodial violence at 2.87% was also a significant VAW instance in Islamabad.

Rest formed 8.3% of all known cases and was of miscellaneous nature. Of these, 17 cases pertained to threatened violence being 41.47% of all in the miscellaneous category. Torture was reported in 15 cases making it the second highest occurrence among miscellaneous VAW crimes at 36.58% of all under the category. Custodial violence was reported in 6 case or 14.63% instances. Two attempted murders constituted 4.88% along with one case of

**Table 36: Number & Percentage of Cases of VAW in ICT during 2009**

Category of Crime	Total Number of Cases	%age of the Total
Murder	39	22.67%
'Honour' killing	2	1.16%
Abduction / Kidnapping	52	30.23%
Domestic Violence	18	10.47%
Suicide	6	3.49%
Rape	9	5.23%
Sexual assault	2	1.16%
Stove burning	2	1.16%
Acid throwing	1	0.59%
Miscellaneous	41	23.83%
<b>Break-Up of Miscellaneous</b>		
Attempted suicide	1	2.44%
Attempted murder	2	4.88%
Torture	15	36.58%
Threat to violence	17	41.47%
Custodial violence	6	14.63%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>100%</b>

## 7.2. Number and Prevalence of VAW by District and Offence in ICT:

Out of the total 172 VAW crimes reported from Islamabad, 111 took place in the first half of the year while 61 cases were registered in the second six months of 2009. The recorded percentage of the cases of VAW in the first and second Bi-Annuals was 65% and 35% respectively.

**Table 37: Bi-Annual Distribution of data in ICT**

No. of Cases	Total	%
1st six months	111	65%
2nd six months	61	35%
<b>Total</b>	<b>835</b>	<b>100%</b>



### **7.3. Prevalence of Major Categories of VAW:**

The high incidence of abduction and kidnapping cases of VAW in Islamabad stands in sharp contrast to the high level of security and efficient policing that the federal capital is known for. It is actually higher than the two provinces of KP and Balochistan put together. The explanation that most of these cases pertain to surrounding areas is perhaps not enough to learn what is actually taking place in the lives of people. There were 52 cases of abduction of women in Islamabad in 2009.

Murder of women is also a frequently committed VAW crime in the federal capital. There have been 39 VAW crimes reporting murder from Islamabad during 2009. Most of these cases were reported from sub-urban settlements like Barakau, Tarnol, Shahpur, and Shehzad town. Majority of the female victims were married. The pattern is that of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) with most of the perpetrators being husbands of the women murdered. The most frequent motivation cited for these VAW crimes of murder is 'suspicious character' of the woman. In one of the incidents, a woman was slaughtered on unfounded allegations of an illicit relationship.

Another shocking finding in the case of Islamabad are two incidents of 'honour' killing that were also reported from the Federal capital during the year. Six women also committed suicide in Islamabad in 2009. A spree of 9 rape and gang-rape cases reported during the year is certainly in sharp contrast to the secure image of the federal capital. One incident of stove burning and another of acid throwing were also reported in 2009.

Besides these major VAW crimes, another 41 cases of miscellaneous nature were recorded in Islamabad. In some 17 cases threats of violence were issued to women making this the largest sub-category representing 41.47% of the miscellaneous VAW crimes committed in Islamabad in 2009. Torture with 15 reports make up 36.58% and custodial violence with another 6 reports form 14.63% of crimes being reported as miscellaneous in nature. Two cases of attempted murder and one of attempted suicide make 4.88% and 2.44% of this category respectively.

### **7.4. FIR Status of cases of VAW:**

According to data collected by Aurat Foundation, police did register an FIR in 139 cases out of a total of 172 cases reported in 2009 from Islamabad. However, it is alarming to note that even in the federal capital no FIRs could be registered in 14 cases while there was also no evidence found on the FIR status of another 19 incidents.

**Table 38: FIR Status of the cases of VAW in ICT**

<b>FIR Status</b>	<b>Total</b>
Registered	139
Not Registered	14
No. Information	19
<b>Total</b>	<b>172</b>

**7.5. Marital Status of Victims/Survivors:**

Some 195 women were identified as victims in the total 172 cases of VAW reported during 2009 from Islamabad. Of these, 81 victims were married women while 51 were unmarried. No information on the marital status of the remaining 63 victims was available.

**Table 39: Marital Status of Victims/Survivors in Islamabad**

<b>Marital Status</b>	<b>Total</b>
Married	81
Unmarried	51
No. Information	63
<b>Total</b>	<b>195</b>

**7.6. Age Groups of Victims/Survivors:**

No age information was available for 104 out of the total of 195 women victims identified in the 172 cases of VAW reported in Islamabad during 2009. Some 36 victims were 18 years or age or younger. Another 40 victims were between 19 and 36 year old while 15 women were over 37 years or age.

**Table 40: Age Group distribution of Victims/Survivors in ICT**

<b>Age-Group (Years)</b>	<b>Total</b>
0-18	36
19-36	40
37&above	15
No. Information	104
<b>Total</b>	<b>195</b>