

PUNJAB STATE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION



PUNJAB STATE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

SCO NO. 20-21-22, SECTOR 34 A,
CHANDIGARH 160 034, India

Ph.: 91-172-2608463, 91-172-2608575,
91-172-2608539

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91-172-2608587 (DGP)

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Website: - www.pshrc.net

Punjab State Women Rights Commission was established in July 1997. During the period 1998-1999, the commission received over a thousand complaints (1148) on issues that constitute a broader and ever evolving concept of human rights. Human Rights essentially spring from the Right to life, which is a natural right. The Commission strove to give a wider meaning to the term: human rights. Issues affecting the quality of life, such as a clean and healthy environment, equality of opportunity, feeling of security from powerful elements misusing their authority, uninterrupted enjoyment of property, are some such examples.

Human Rights are essential and intrinsic to each person, they are celebration of life itself, an affirmation of human existence, for without them we cannot realize our dreams and aspirations.

A violation of an individual's human rights is not an isolated act, it hits at the very essence of a person's sense of being, therefore if allowed to go unchecked, it not only destroys an individual's sense of worth but also her/his faith in humanity.

The founding fathers of our Constitution had a vision steeped in freedom and equality where every person would have the opportunity to transcend superficial differentiations. The modern Indian nation, set in the liberal democratic mode, aims to provide protection and solace to its millions of inhabitants. States, however are not isolated structures, they comprise of people, hence reflect the prejudices, malaises, shortcomings of society and sometimes may even become agents of oppression rather than vehicles of emancipation. As part of an ongoing process of introspection that is reflective of welfare States, Human Rights Commissions are established to restore a measure of confidence regarding human rights among citizens. The Protection of Human Rights Act 1993, under which the Punjab State Human rights Commission was established, aims at preservation of individual dignity and protection of individual freedom. It is a part of the Commission's mandate to re-affirm the faith of aggrieved persons in the system and ensure that human beings are the subjects and not objects of development.

The Commission was able to fulfill some of its aims through exercise of judicial scrutiny in complaints by issuing directions/recommendations where required. Complaints to the Commission, however, are made after a human rights has been violated, therefore the relief that may be provided is remedial and subsequent in nature.

Keeping in mind this limitation, the Commission seeks to identify certain areas of concern, like wide-spread incidence of human rights abuses by law

enforcement agencies, the susceptibility of vulnerable groups, such as women and children to human rights violations and the deteriorating environment for launching of its projects and programmes in the coming years.

The thrust for the future is to create an atmosphere where there is a high degree of awareness about human rights among potential victims. At the same time, an effort towards sensitizing potential violators to the concept of human rights would complement the scope of the Commission's activities.

MEMBERS OF PSHRC : -

1. Justice N.C. Jain (Chairperson)
2. Justice R.L. Anand (Member)
3. Sh. B.C. Rajput (Member)
4. Sh. B.K. Sibel (Member)

FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMISSION:-

1. Inquire suo moto or on a petition presented to it by a victim or any person on his behalf, into complaints of:
 - i. Violation of human rights or abetment thereof or
 - ii. Negligence in the prevention of such violation, by a public servant;
2. Intervene in any proceeding involving any allegation of violation of human rights pending before a court with the approval of such court;
3. Visit under intimation to the State Government, any jail or any other institution under the control of the State Government, where persons are detained or lodged for purposes of treatment, reformation or protection to study the living conditions of the inmates and make recommendations thereon;
4. Review the safeguards provided by or under the Constitution or any law for the time being in force for the protection of human rights and recommend effective measures for their implementation;
5. Review the factors, including acts of terrorism that inhibit the enjoyment of human rights and recommend appropriate remedial measures;
6. This clause has been repealed in the case of State Human Rights Commissions
7. Undertake research and promote research in the field of human rights

8. Spread human rights literacy among various sections of society and promote awareness of the safeguards available for the protection of these rights through publications, the media, seminars and other available means;
9. Encourage the efforts of non-government organisations and institutions working in the field of human rights

Such other functions as it may consider for the promotion of human rights

MATTERS COVERED IN THE JURISDICTION OF THE COMMISSION: -

All rights relating to the life, liberty equality and dignity of the individual guaranteed by the Constitution or embodied in the International Covenants and enforceable by courts in India.

MATTERS NOT COVERED IN THE JURISDICTION OF THE COMMISSION: -

1. Commission shall not inquire into any matter after the expiry of one year from the date on which the act constituting violation of human rights is alleged to have been committed.
2. Commission shall not inquire into any matter which is pending before any other commission duly constituted under law. For the time being in force.
3. Matters which are vague or anonymous
4. Matters of frivolous or trivial nature
5. Personal matters like disputes between landlord and tenant, conjugal disputes, disputes relating to property inheritance, partitions etc.
6. Violation of human rights by members of Central Armed Forces (they may be looked into by the National Human Rights Commission under section 19 of the Act)
7. When allegations are not against any public servant of the State Government.
8. When allegations do not make out any specific violation of human rights.

9. When matter is covered by a judicial verdict/decision of the state Commission
10. When the matter is outside the purview of the State Commission on any other ground.

STATE COMMISSION FOR WOMEN, PUNJAB

STATE COMMISSION FOR WOMEN, PUNJAB

SCO: 57-59

SECTOR: 17-C, CHANDIGARH

TELEPHONE NO. 0172-2708142

CHAIRPERSON: - MRS. SURINDER KAUR GREWAL

Punjab State Commission for Women was established in June 1998. The Commission is working for safeguarding the Rights of Women, and also provides Justice to them. It also takes up cases for enquiring into the unfair practices affecting Women in the State of Punjab.

Since the inception of Punjab State Commission for Women, about 1280 cases had been dispensed out. The cases who has been dealt with belongs to various types of categories like Dowry Demand, Extra Marital Affairs, Sexual Harassment at Work Place, Denial of Property Rights. The Commission Authorities also make a visit to various Jails of the State to know about the condition of the Women Prisoner and also suggest to the Jail Authorities about the required remedial measures. PSWC also provide free legal Aid to needy and poor women. PSWC also make visits to the factories to know about the conditions of the Women Workers and also recommend the needed action in this regards.

HOW TO APPLY FOR THE REMOVAL OF GRIEVANCES TO THE STATE COMMISSION FOR WOMEN, PUNJAB

1. Written application to the Chairperson of the Women Commission
2. One can also approach through Post even on Post Card.
3. One can approach through Fax also.

A BRIEF PROFILE OF THE STATE COMMISSION FOR WOMEN, PUNJAB

1.	Name and Address of the Organization	PUNJAB STATE COMMISSION FOR WOMEN SCO 57-59, SECTOR 17-C, CHANDIGARH-160017.
2.	Year of Inception/ Year of Registration	1998 1998
3.	Operational Area	State of Punjab.
4.	Aims and Objectives	Safeguarding the Rights of Women and providing Justice and enquiring into unfair practices affecting their lives.
5.	Head of the Institution Phone/Fax/E-Mail	Mrs. Surinder Grewal 0172-2783607, 2708142
6.	Chief Functionary	Mrs. Surinder Grewal
7.	No. of Staff	13
8.	Source of Funding	Punjab State Government.
9.	Kind of Specialized Training	No

10	Activities	To Protect Women's Constitutional and Legal Rights so that Status of Women can be Improved, Provides Free Legal Aid and Personal visit are made for women jail inmates to all the jails to register their grievances, then concerned department are contacted for their redressal, Visit are also made to various factories where Women worker are employed to examine their Working Conditions and to enquire the Unfair Practices affecting Women, Campaign against Female Foeticide are also undertaken by the commission. Workshops on Dowry Prohibition Ac and Immoral Traffic Prevention Act are also organised for purposes of sensitizing the general populace.
11	Women specific Issues Addressed by the Organisation	Provide Legal Aid to Protect Legal Rights of Women, Campaign against Female Foeticide, Dowry & Trafficking Issues and to Fight against Unfair Practices affecting Women.
12	Organisation Support Services to Women.	Providing Legal Aid.
13	Whether the Organisation is providing Services pertaining to Violence against women Yes/No	Yes
14	If yes then number of Cases, Category wise:	
	Category	Number
	a. Rape	4
	b Kidnapping	0
	c Dowry	117
	d Eve Teasing	0
	e Sexual Harassment at Work place	11
	f Victim of NRI Marriages / Divorce / Property etc.	16
	g Victim of Addiction of Alcohol	0
	h Any other (Specify) Extra Marital Relationship	14

	Domestic Violence	105
15	Relations with other Institutions (Govt., Police, Grievance Cell, Counselling Centre, Any other)	Good
16	Kind of Empowerment Programme (Yes/No)	No
17	Issues Specific Problems/Women Specific problems	No
18	Have you Approached any Agencies like Women Commission/Local Police, Crime Against Women Cell/Human Right Commission etc.	Local Police.

SOCIAL SECURITY WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT PUNJAB, CHANDIGARH.

SOCIAL SECURITY WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT
SCO: 128-29
SECTOR: 34-A
CHANDIGARH.
TELEPHONE NO. 0172-2602726

The Department of Social Security Women and Child Development Punjab, runs various schemes for needy, Senior Citizens, Widows, Women who have been denied justice, Orphan Children and Disabled persons. The Department through its various schemes caters to the needs of the mentioned categories. The Department provides to the above-mentioned categories Pension, Financial Assistance and Grand in aid to various institution. The Department runs the various schemes which are as follows: -

(A) SOCIAL SECURITY

1. Old Age Pension
2. Financial Assistance to Widow and Deprived Women
3. Financial Assistance to Orphan Children
4. Financial Assistance to disabled person
5. National Old Age Pension Scheme
6. National Family Benefit Scheme
7. Identity Card to Senior Citizens

THROUGH INSTITUTIONS

1. Regional Spinal Injury Centre, Sector 70, Mohali
2. Brail Press for the Blind/ Library, Jamalpur, Ludhiana

3. Govt. Institute for the Blind, Jamalpur, Ludhiana
4. Vocational Rehabilitation Centre
5. National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation
6. Grant in Aid to NGOs (Who are working for the welfare of the Blind Persons)

(B) Home Institution run by the Department of Social Security Women & Child Development

- a. Home for the Aged and Infirm, Hoshiarpur
- b. Widow and Deprived Women Home, Jalandhar
- c. Protective Home, Jalandhar
- d. Mahila Ashram High School, Hoshiarpur
- e. Gandhi Vanita Ashram High School, Hoshiarpur

(C) Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000

- 5 Children Home (Jalandhar, Bathinda, Ropar, Rajpura and Gurdaspur)
- 2 Juvenile Home (Hoshiarpur for Boys, Jalandhar for Girls)
- 2 Observation Home for under trial Juveniles (Faridkot and Ludhiana)
- 2 Special Home for convicted Children (Hoshiarpur for Boys & Amritsar for Girls)
- 2 State After Care Home (Ludhiana)

(D) INSTITUTE FOR MENTALLY RETARDED (KAPURTHALA)

(E) WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT SECTION

1. ICDS (Central Govt. Scheme)
2. Balika Samridhi Yojana (Central Govt. Scheme)
3. Kishori Shakti Yojana
4. Prime Minister Gramin Yojana
5. Women Empowerment
6. Kanya Jagriti Jyoti Scheme
7. Supplementary Nutrition Programme (MSNP State Share)
8. UDHIASA (A Training Programme which covers Anganbari Workers, Helpers, Training Centre Supervisors & it also gives training to Women Sarpanches and Panches)
9. Swayam Siddha Scheme
10. For the Women above 60 years of age, half fare facilities to travel in Buses
11. Punjab State Women Commission
12. Women Awareness Scheme

13. Janshri Bima Yojana

PUNJAB LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY

PUNJAB LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY
SCO NO. 3001-02,
SECTOR: 22-D,
CHANDIGARH.
PHONE NO. 0172-2740071-78

As per the Article 39 A of the Indian Constitution, the State should provide Legal help to the poor and weaker sections of the Society so that they can approach the Judiciary and also they may not be deprived from getting Justice. According to the Legal Services Authority Act of 1987, which got implemented in 1995, Punjab Legal Services Authority was constituted in 1996. The Punjab Legal Services Authority Pattern-in-Chief is Chief Justice of Punjab and Haryana High Court. Its Chairman is one of the Judge of Punjab & Haryana High Court. District Court Judge is its Member Secretary. Apart from this, the high officials from the Punjab Government is its Ex-Officio member. Persons from Social

Service Sectors and Women are also nominated. It has been constituted at the District level in every District of the Punjab State.

Uptill 30 June 2002, the department received 31861 applications, 31121 applications were accepted for free legal services. During this period under the supervision of Hon'ble Chairman 2379 Lok Adalats were held, in which 253336 cases brought into the notice through the Lok Adalats. 142247 cases were decided upon. Through these decisions Rs. 322 Crore as compensation, accident claim, decree award were given. Just to sensitize the People about various Laws and also about the functioning of the Punjab State Legal Authorities (PSLA) 1206 workshops and seminars were organised. Out of the Court settlement, mutual reconciliation has also been carried out by the PSLA.

THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES OF PERSONS ARE ENTITLED FOR LEGAL SERVICES FROM THE PUNJAB LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY: -

1. S.C. and S.T. Members
2. Unemployed Person
3. Women and Children
4. Mentally unsound/disabled
5. Victim of High handedness/excesses
6. Industrial Worker
7. To inmates in Judicial Custody
8. Any Person whose Income is below 30,000/- per year

SERVICES SPECIFIC TO WOMEN:-

Punjab Legal Services Authority provides free legal services to Women under section 12 of the Legal Service Authorities Act 1987. For the cases of High Court, Punjab Legal Service Authorities gives the Legal Services. For the cases of District Courts and Sub Divisional Courts, the District Legal Services Authority and Sub Divisional Committees provides the Legal Services. Under this Scheme Counsel are appointed for Women to contest Cases in the Court. Fee and Legal

Expenses are borne by the Authority or the Committee who render free Legal Services. Every women who wants to avail free legal services has to fill up an application form which is given free of cost by the concerned office. For further details the Chairman, District Legal Services Authority (District and Sessions Judge), Sub-Divisional Legal Services Committee (Additional Civil Judge, Senior Division) or Assistant District Attorney (Legal Services) posted at District Headquarters can be contacted in their offices. For High Court cases, Member Secretary, Punjab Legal Services Authority, Chandigarh can be contacted on the above-mentioned address. Punjab Legal Services Authority also holds Lok Adalats.

HOW TO APPLY:-

Applicant has to fill up an application form to the Chairperson, Punjab State Legal Authorities.

DEPARTMENT OF PRISON, PUNJAB

DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE, PRISONS, PUNJAB
SCO: 8-9
SECTOR 17-A
CHANDIGARH. 160017
PHONE NO. 0172-2704219

The Department of Prison, Punjab apart from keeping the jail inmates in judicial custody and imprisonment also looks after the well being of the jail inmates. The support services provided to the jail inmates like food, Medical, Counselling, Vocational Training, Crèche facilities to the children of women inmates, parole facilities free legal aids are being provided to the women inmates as per the Punjab Jail Manual.

TOTAL NUMBER OF JAIL INMATES

1	Convict	Male	Female	Total
		4553	240	4793
2	Under Trial	7838	447	8385
3	Total Jail Inmates	12391	687	13178

TOTAL NUMBER OF INMATES IN JAIL DURING THE LAST FIVE YEARS UNDER THE FOLLOWING OFFENSES ARE AS FOLLOWS: -

Total Number cases during the last five years								
No.	Types of Violence	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	Total
1.	Domestic Violence (e.g. under section 406, 498-A etc.)	127	175	150	144	217	217	1038
2.	Dowry Harassment	165	116	136	130	193	191	931
3.	Dowry Deaths	112	100	134	115	124	150	735
4.	Extra Marital Relations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5.	Desertion by Husband	30	42	50	60	131	123	436
6.	Marital Discord	2	2	4	4	9	9	30
7.	Bigamy	5	-	3	5	9	9	13
8.	Victims of NRI husbands / In Laws	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9.	Eve Teasing	18	7	5	4	6	6	46

10.	Kidnapping	32	30	57	37	72	86	314
11.	Molestation	8	11	15	55	36	36	161
12.	Rape	44	54	68	45	70	83	365
13.	Sexual Harassment at Work place	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
14.	Denial of Property Rights	2	6	2	3	-	-	13
15.	Women Arrested at NDPS Act	148	174	192	196	228	407	1425
16	Any Other	305	666	807	883	1152	1044	4857
	GRAND TOTAL							10365

PUNJAB STATE SOCIAL WELFARE ADVISORY BOARD

PUNJAB STATE SOCIAL WELFARE ADVISORY BOARD
 QUIET OFFICE NO. 16, SECTOR 35-A
 CHANDIGARH-160022
 TELEPHONE NO. 0172-2608176, 2607867
 CHAIRPERSON: - Mrs. GURDIAL KAUR MALLAN
 SECRETARY: - Sh. D.S. BHUKKAL

Punjab State Social Welfare Advisory Board, Chandigarh was set up in October 1954 by the State Government in consultation with Central Social Welfare Board, New Delhi with an object to develop welfare programmes for the Women, Children and Handicapped through the NGOs working in the State of Punjab. The financial assistance to NGOs under various schemes are being provided by Central Social Welfare Board, New Delhi and State Govt. The Programmes run by the

Punjab State Social Welfare Advisory Board (PSSWAB) aims to educate the women and also to impart training to the women so that they can become self-dependent.

1. Education for Girls through short courses.
2. Awareness Generation Programme (Rural Poor Women)
3. Family Counselling Centre
4. Hostel for the working women

Scheme for making economically Self-dependent

1. Socio Economic Programme

Various Programmes and Schemes of Punjab State Social Welfare Advisory Board

Sr. No.	Name of Districts	Programmes
1	Amritsar	Awareness Generation Programme (AGP), Creche
2	Bathinda	VTC, AGP
3	Faridkot	VTC, AGP
4	Fatehgarh Sahib	AGP
5	Ferozepur	VTC, AGP, Creche, Mahila Mandal
6	Gurdaspur	Creche, VTC, AGP, Mahila Mandal
7	Hoshiarpur	Creche, VTC, AGP
8	Jalandhar	AGP, Mahila Mandal

9	Kapurthala	Mahila Mandal
10	Ludhiana	Mahila Mandal, VTC, AGP
11	Mansa	AGP
12	Moga	AGP
13	Muktsar	Creche, VTC, AGP
14	Nawanshahar	Creche, VTC, AGP
15	Patiala	Creche, VTC, AGP
16	Ropar	Creche, VTC, AGP
17	Sangrur	Creche, VTC, AGP