A Report on

PERFORMANCE OF WOMEN LEGISLATORS

Parliament of Pakistan

2016 - 2017

FREE AND FAIR ELECTION NETWORK

www.fafen.org | www.openparliament.pk

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Women MPs more active in NA than Senate

In a country where women political potentialities are undermined, underestimated and under-documented, women lawmakers in the National Assembly and the Senate made significant contributions to the parliamentary proceedings during 2016-2017. These Women MPs asserted their legislative and oversight roles calling urgent attention of the government on tenacious issues of maternal health, harassment at workplaces, honor killings and refuge for rape victims. The women lawmakers of the National Assembly outperformed their male counterparts in introducing parliamentary business whereas the women Senators contribution was also commensurate to their strength in the Upper House.

The comparative analysis of the on-floor performances of women and men lawmakers in both Houses of the Parliament shows that women members actively participated in the proceedings through regular attendance and substantive contribution to the parliamentary business particularly in the National Assembly during the reporting periods - May 31, 2016 to February 7, 2017 of the National Assembly and April 14, 2016 to February 20, 2017 of the Senate.

Currently, women make up 20% of the Parliament with 19 seats in the Senate and 70 in the National Assembly. These women parliamentarians contributed 38 percent of the business transacted by the both Houses of the Parliament in their respective parliamentary years.

Women MPs more active in NA than Senate

During this period, a total of 4,132 agenda items were included on the Orders of the Day – 2,123 in the National Assembly and 2,009 in the Senate. The percentage of women contribution to the parliamentary business is remarkably high in the National Assembly where nearly two thirds (62%) business was originated by women individually and three percent in collaboration with their male colleagues. In the Senate, women sponsored 13 percent parliamentary business individually and two percent jointly.

On average, a woman lawmaker sponsored 18 agenda items individually in the Parliament whereas a male lawmaker sponsored seven agenda items. In the National Assembly, a woman lawmaker brought 19 agenda items against three agenda items by her male colleague. In the Senate, a male lawmaker sponsored more agenda items (20) on average than women (14 agenda items).

The National Assembly held 71 sittings and the Senate 87 sittings during their respective reporting periods. In the National Assembly, a woman lawmaker attended average 48 (67%) sittings whereas a male lawmaker attended 41 (58%) sittings. In the Senate, a woman lawmaker attended average 52 (60%) sittings whereas a male lawmaker attended 57 (65%) sittings. Two women in the National Assembly attended 100% sittings while the lowest attendance of any woman was 6%. Similarly, in the highest and lowest women attendance in the Senate was 93% and 21% respectively.

More punctual in attendance, contribution to agenda in NA

The women lawmakers of the National Assembly initiated 21 out of 120 bills (18%) on their own and 23 (19%) bills in collaboration with their male colleagues. They sponsored 31 out of 67 resolutions (46%) in the National Assembly while collaborated with male lawmakers for moving 13 (19%) resolutions. The women lawmakers also sponsored ten out of 106 bills introduced in the Senate (six on their own and four with male lawmakers) and 13 out of 90 resolutions (eight on their own and five with male lawmakers).

The women parliamentarians also kept a close vigil on the government by asking questions and raising calling attention notices. They asked 1,208 (67%) Questions, raised 36 (70%) Motions under Rule 259 and submitted 44 (75%) CANs in the National Assembly. The women senators submitted 233 (16%) Questions, moved 14 (19%) Motions under Rule 218, sponsored 17 (16%) Adjournment Motions and submitted 19 (17%) Calling Attention Notices (CANs).

Women interventions focus more on maternal health, harassment, honor killing and legislation against rape

BACKGROUND

Women Representation: World Average

The best form of democracy is when men and women have equal opportunities in life and gender equality acts as a litmus test to judge the level of inclusivity in a political system. Despite women comprising more than half of Pakistan population, they continue to be drastically under-represented in the leadership cadre of political parties. The present quota of women seats in Parliament and Provincial Assemblies is 22 percent, which was announced before the General Election in 2002. Earlier, the 1973 Constitution provided for 10 seats for women for 10 years which were later increased to 20 in 1985. However, their representational quota lapsed in 1988 after three General Elections in 1977, 1985 and 1988.

The 60 seats reserved for women in the National Assembly and 17 in the Senate, although not proportionate to their population, is a step forward for women representation in the mainstream politics of Pakistan. The reservation of seats is in accordance with Article 34 of the Constitution and in sync with Pakistan's international commitments on women's political emancipation. Globally, Pakistan ranks at 89th position in the world's democracies having 20.5 per cent representation of women in the Lower House and 18.3 per cent in the Senate.

In South Asia, however, Pakistan ranked at 3rd position as far as representation of women in Parliament is concerned.

Countries	Lower or Single House			Upper House or Senate		
	Total Members	Women Members	%	Total Members	Women Members	%
Nepal	595	176	29.60%	---	---	---
Afghanistan	249	69	27.70%	68	21	30.90%
Pakistan	342	70	20.50%	104	19	18.30%
Bangladesh	350	71	20.30%			
India	542	64	11.80%	245	27	11.00%
Bhutan	47	4	8.50%	25	2	8.00%
Maldives	85	5	5.90%	---	---	---
Sri Lanka	225	13	5.80%	---	---	---

Source: IPU Website: http://www.ipu.org/wmn-e/classif.htm

Currently, there are 70 women Members of the National Assembly (MNAs) in Pakistan – 60 on reserved seats, nine on general and one on a minority seat. This makes up for 20.46 percent of the total representation of women in the House of 342. The seats reserved for women are filled on the basis of total number of general seats won by a political party and those independent candidates who may duly join such political party within three days of the publication in the official Gazette of the names of the returned candidates. According to this proportionate system about 60 reserved seats, PML-N had sweeping majority in 2013 General Elections with a total of 35 women seats in the National Assembly, followed by PPPP (8), PTI (6), MQM (4), JUI-F (3) and one each of PML-F, JI, NPP and PkMAP.

Of nine elected women MNAs, five won seats from Sindh on PPPP tickets while four PML-N women remained winner in Punjab. Overall, 39 women MNAs belong to the province of Punjab, followed by Sindh (19), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (8), Balochistan (3) and one is elected on the reserved seat for minority. Similarly, there are 19 women Senators – 17 on the reserved seats and two on general seats. This makes up for 18.26 percent of the total representation in the House of Federation, which comprise 104 members. Of 19 women Senators, five each belong to PPPP and PML-N, followed by MQM (3), ANP (2) and one each of PML, PTI, BNP-A and PkMAP. Six women Senators belong to the province of Sindh, followed by four each from Punjab, Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and one from the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT).

Overall, 89 women make up for 20 per cent of the total membership of the two Houses of the Parliament. Three women MNAs- two elected on the reserved seats and one on general seat – have luckily become part of the Federal Cabinet and serving as State Ministers in the Ministries of Information Technology and Telecommunication; Information, Broadcasting and National Heritage and National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination.

Similarly, three other women MNAs elected on reserved seats, are serving as Parliamentary Secretaries at the Capital Administration and Development Division; Petroleum & Natural Resources and States & Frontier Regions. While, three women Senators are serving as Chairpersons of as many Standing Committees, including Federal Education and Professional Training, Foreign Affairs and Human Rights.

METHODOLOGY

The data used in this report is based on direct observation of the Senate and National Assembly proceedings by Free and Fair Election Network (FAFEN). It attempts to gauge performance of women Members of Parliament in National Assembly from - May 31, 2016 to February 7, 2017 and in Senate from April 14, 2016 to February 20, 2017.

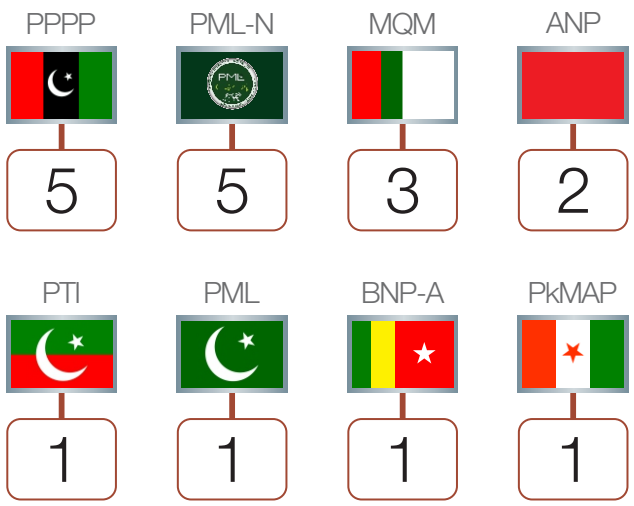
This report is based on contribution of women lawmakers (elected on general and reserve seats) in various parliamentary interventions during aforementioned reporting period. The section wise detail given in this report includes contribution of women lawmakers in legislation, resolutions, motions, calling attention notices, adjournment motions and questions. The section on attendance of women members is based on the attendance record available on the official websites of both Houses. Furthermore, the individual performance of each women lawmaker being a part of this report is available on the TDEA-FAFEN's online parliamentary database http://openparliament.pk/.

REPRESENTATION

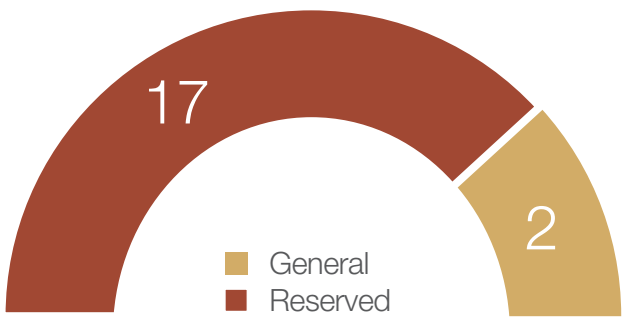
SENATE

There are 19 women Senators – 17 on the reserved seats and two on general seats. This makes up for 18.26 percent of the total representation in the House of Federation, which comprise 104 members.

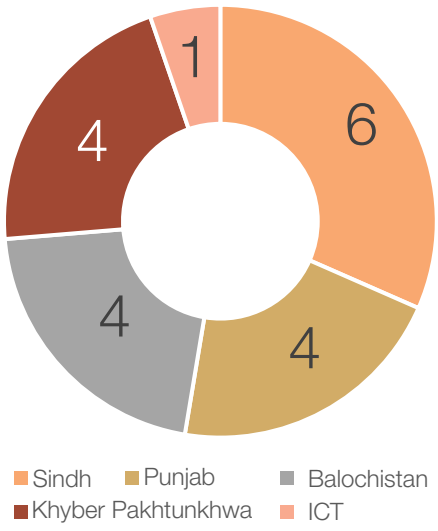
Women Seats by Party



Women Seats by Type



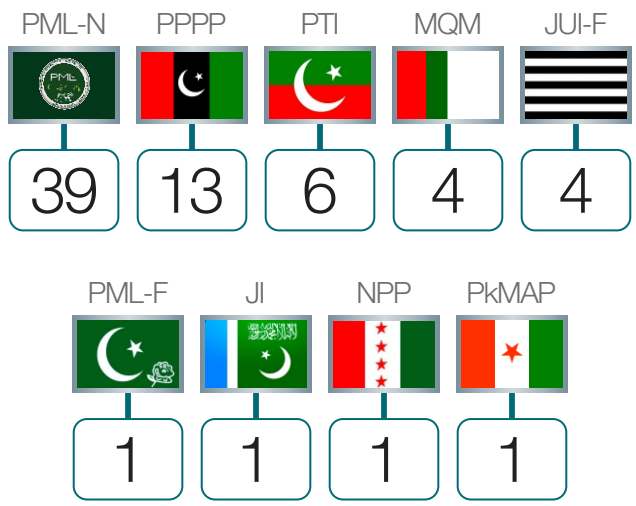
Women Seats by Region



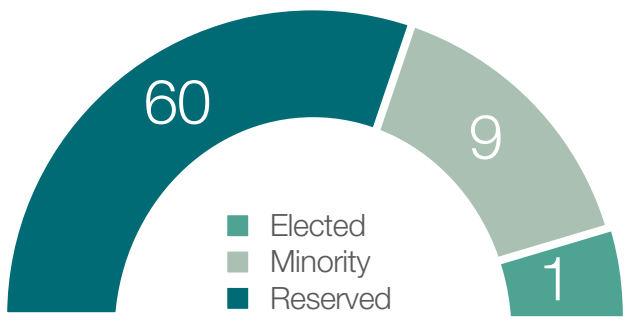
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Currently, there are 70 women Members of the National Assembly (MNAs) in Pakistan – 60 on reserved seats, nine on general and one on a minority seat. This makes up for 20.46 percent of the total representation of women in the House of 342.

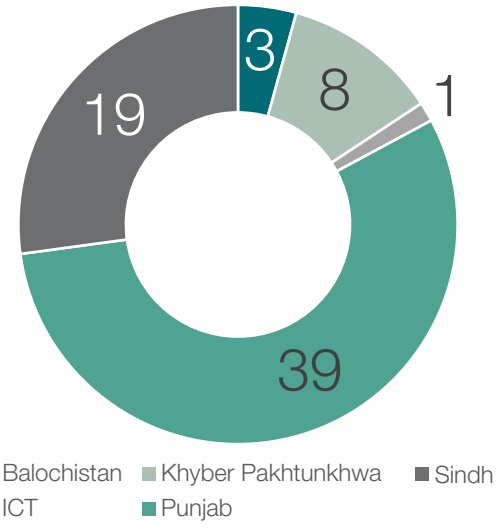
Women Seats by Party



Women Seats by Type



Women Seats by Region



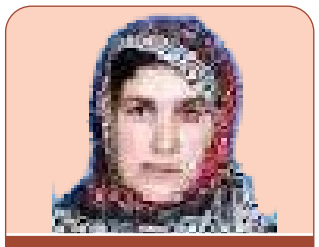
ATTENDANCE

Average attendance of women lawmakers in the National Assembly remained 67 per cent as compared to 58 percent of the male lawmakers during the reporting period, having 71 sittings. Similarly, women lawmakers attended 53 out of 87 (61%) sittings in Senate while their male counterparts on average attended 57 (66%) sittings.

MNAs Tahira Bukhari (PML-N) and Naseema Hafeez (PkMAP) remained the most punctual lawmakers as both attended all 71 sittings, followed by Musarat Rafique of PPPP (70 sittings) and Shaheen Sahfique and Kiran Haider of PML-N (69 sittings each).

In Senate, PkMAP lawmaker Gul Bashra attended 81 out 87 sittings, followed by Kalsoom Perveen (PML-N) and Samina Abid (PTI), attending 77 and 74 sittings, respectively.

SENATE



Gul Bashra (PkMAP)

Attend: 81/87 | 93%

Kalsoom Perveen (PML-N)

Attend: 77/87 | 89%

Samina Abid (PTI)

Attend: 74/87 | 85%

Sitara Ayaz (ANP)

Attend: 73/87 | 84%

Rubina Khalid (PPPP)

Attend: 73/87 | 84%

Najma Hameed (PML-N)

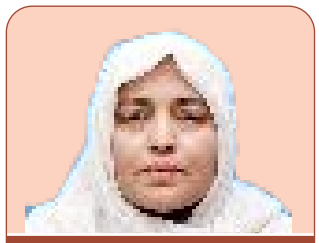
Attend: 70/87 | 80%

Sehar Kamran (PPPP)

Attend: 67/87 | 77%

Nighat Mirza (MQM)

Attend: 57/87 | 66%



Khalida Parveen (PPPP)

Attend: 57/87 | 66%

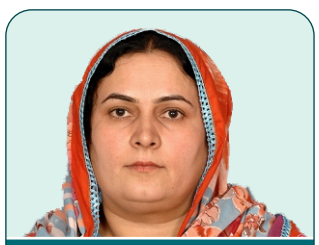
Rahila Magsi (PML-N)

Attend: 43/87 | 49%

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Tahira Bukhari (PML-N)

Attend: 71/71 | 100%



Naseema Hafeez (PkMAP)

Attend: 71/71 | 100%

Aliya Kamran (JUI-F)

Attend: 70/71 | 99%

Musarat Rafique (PPPP)

Attend: 70/71 | 99%

Shaheen Shafiq (PML-N)

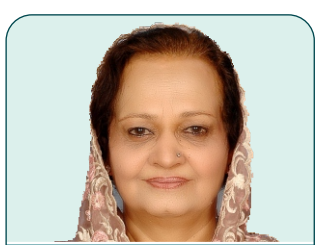
Attend: 69/71 | 97%

Kiran Haider (PML-N)

Attend: 69/71 | 97%

Mussarat Ahmadzeb (PTI)

Attend: 68/71 | 96%



Tahira Aurangzeb (PML-N)

Attend: 66/71 | 93%

Shamas-un-Nisa (PPPP)

Attend: 65/71 | 92%

Shakila Luqman (PML-N)

Attend: 65/71 | 92%

LEGISLATION

Women legislators individually or collectively with their male counterparts sponsored 27 out of 62 Private Members bills that appeared on Orders of the Day of both the Houses during the reporting period.

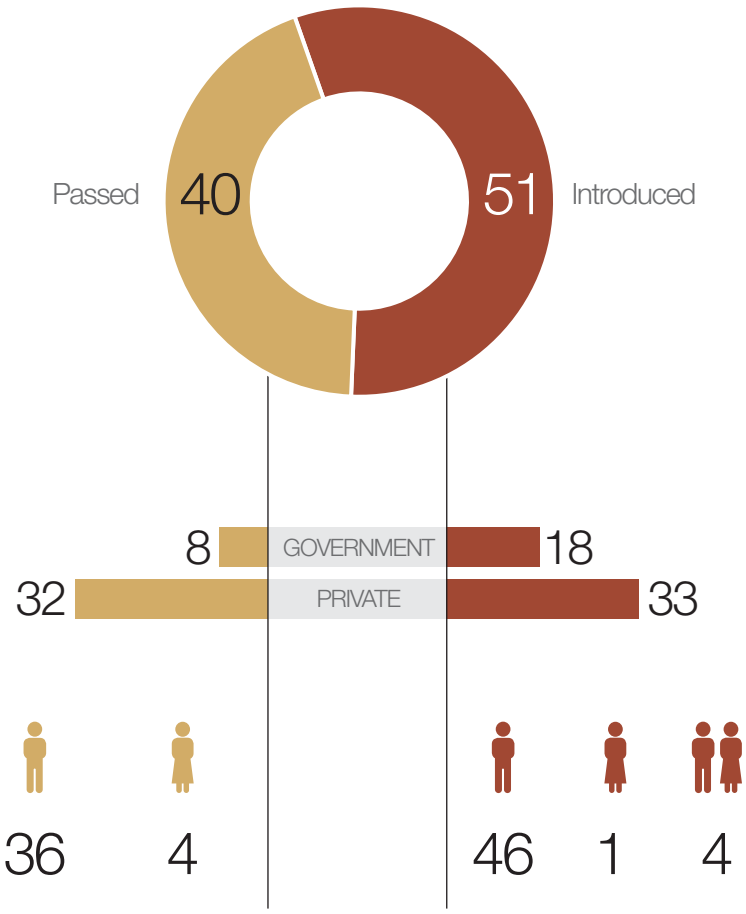
The National Assembly passed 40 bills, including 38 government and two Private Members bills. Among these one government and two Private Members bills were sponsored by women legislators.

As many as 29 Private Members bills were introduced in the National Assembly. Women lawmakers individually sponsored 10 of them, while another 13 bills were jointly moved by them with the male members of the House. The remaining six bills were introduced by male lawmakers individually. The National Assembly passed only two out of 29 Private Members bills introduced during the reporting period, and both of them were sponsored by women lawmakers either individually or jointly.

In the House of Federation, a total of 33 Private Members bills were introduced during the reporting period. Women Senators jointly introduced four such bills while the Senate gave approval to eight Private Members bills, among them three were sponsored by women lawmakers. The passed bills sponsored by women sought amendments to the existing laws related to education, elections and energy reforms.

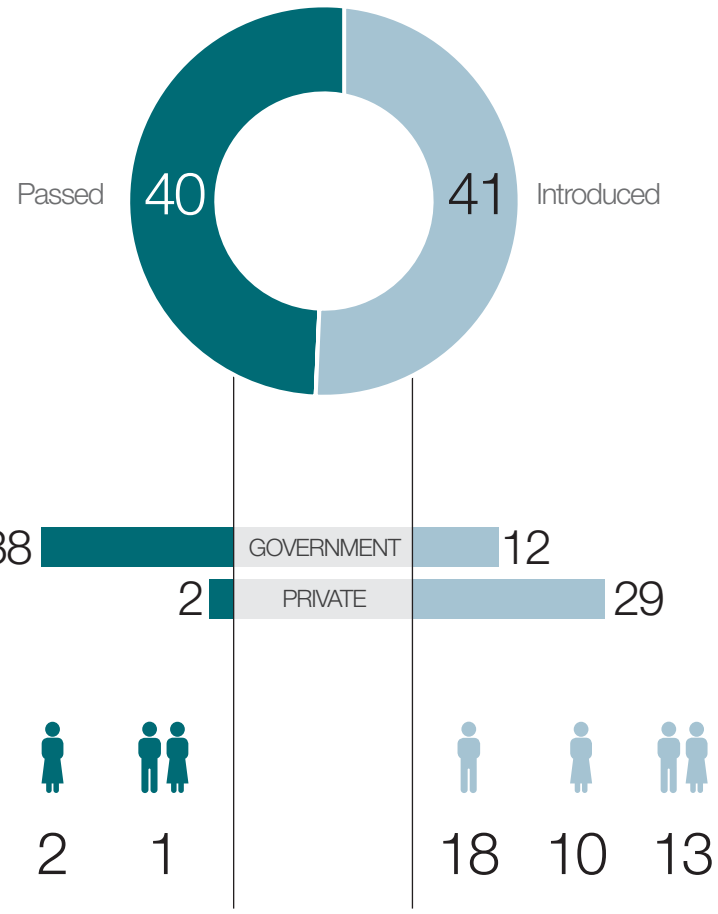
SENATE

Bills by Gender



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Bills by Gender



LEGISLATION

PRIVATE MEMBER'S BILLS IN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Dr. Nikhat Shakeel

MQM

Total Bills: 14

Bill Name	Sponsorship	Status
The Prohibition of Smoking and Protection of Non-Smokers Health (Amendment) Bill, 2017	Jointly	Rejected
The Legal Practitioners and Bar Councils (Amendment) Bill, 2017		Introduced
The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2017 (Amendment in Article 156)		Rejected
The Poisons (Amendment) Bill, 2017		Introduced
The Health Insurance Scheme for Disabled Persons Bill, 2017		Introduced
The Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill, 2017		Introduced
The National Commission on the Status of Women (Amendment) Bill, 2016		Passed
The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (Amendment in Article 156)		Not Taken Up
The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (Amendment in Article 215 & 218)		Withdrawn
The Technical Educational Institutions, Medical Educational Institutions and Universities (Regulation of Fee) Bill, 2016		Introduced
The National Accountability (Amendment) Bill, 2016		Introduced
The Constitution (Twenty-Fourth) (Amendment) Bill, 2016		Dropped
The Medical Consultancy and Other Services (Rationalization of Fees) Bill, 2016		Introduced
The Islamabad High Court (Amendment) Bill, 2016		Introduced

Saman Sultana Jafri

MQM

Total Bills: 10

Bill Title	Sponsorship	Status
The Prohibition of Smoking and Protection of Non-Smokers Health (Amendment) Bill, 2017	Jointly	Rejected
The Legal Practitioners and Bar Councils (Amendment) Bill, 2017		Introduced
The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2017 (Amendment in Article 156)		Rejected
The Poisons (Amendment) Bill, 2017		Introduced
The Health Insurance Scheme for Disabled Persons Bill, 2017		Introduced
The National Commission on the Status of Women (Amendment) Bill, 2016		Passed
The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (Amendment in Article 156)		Not Taken Up
The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (Amendment in Article 215 & 218)		Withdrawn
The Islamabad High Court (Amendment) Bill, 2016		Introduced
The National Accountability (Amendment) Bill, 2016		Introduced

LEGISLATION

Kishwer Zehra

MQM

Total Bills: 10

Bill Title	Sponsorship	Status
The National Commission for Child Rights Bill, 2017	Jointly	Rejected
The Prohibition of Smoking and Protection of Non-Smokers Health (Amendment) Bill, 2017		Rejected
The Poisons (Amendment) Bill, 2017		Introduced
The Health Insurance Scheme for Disabled Persons Bill, 2017		Introduced
The Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues (Amendment) Bill, 2016	Individually	Introduced
The Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues (Amendment) Bill, 2016		Dropped
The Constitution (Twenty-Fourth) (Amendment) Bill, 2016	Jointly	Dropped
The Medical Consultancy and Other Services (Rationalization of Fees) Bill, 2016		Introduced
The National Accountability (Amendment) Bill, 2016		Introduced
The Islamabad High Court (Amendment) Bill, 2016		Introduced

Aisha Syed

JI

Total Bills: 6

Bill Title	Sponsorship	Status
The Trade Organizations (Amendment) Bill, 2017	Jointly	Deferred
The Pakistan Penal Code (Amendment) Bill, 2017	Jointly	Introduced
The Pakistan Penal Code (Amendment) Bill, 2016	Jointly	Not Taken Up
The Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Bill, 2016	Jointly	Introduced
The National Accountability (Amendment) Bill, 2016	Jointly	Introduced
The Criminal Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2016	Jointly	Introduced

Dr. Fouzia Hameed

MQM

Total Bills: 4

Bill Title	Sponsorship	Status
The Criminal Laws, (Amendment) Bill, 2016	Jointly	Introduced
The Federal Public Service Commission (Amendment) Bill, 2016	Individually	Introduced
The Protection against Harassment of Women at the Workplace (Amendment) Bill, 2016		Introduced
The National Accountability (Amendment) Bill, 2016	Jointly	Introduced

Naeema Kishwar Khan

JUI-F

Total Bills: 4

Bill Title	Sponsorship	Status
The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2017 (Amendment in Article 156)	Jointly	Rejected
The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2017 (Amendment in Article 37)	Individually	Introduced
The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (Amendment in Article 51)	Jointly	Dropped
The Anti-Rape Laws (Criminal Laws Amendment) Bill, 2016	All Female	Withdrawn

LEGISLATION

Surriya Asghar

PML-N

Total Bills: 2

Bill Title	Sponsorship	Status
The Indus River System Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2017	Individually	Introduced
The Anti-Rape Laws (Criminal Laws Amendment) Bill, 2016	All Female	Withdrawn

Shahida Akhtar Ali

JUI-F

Total Bills: 2

Bill Title	Sponsorship	Status
The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2017 (Amendment in Article 156)	Jointly	Rejected
The Anti-Rape Laws (Criminal Laws Amendment) Bill, 2016	All Female	Withdrawn

Aasiya Nasir

JUI-F

Total Bills: 2

Bill Title	Sponsorship	Status
The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2016	Individually	Deferred
The Anti-Rape Laws (Criminal Laws Amendment) Bill, 2016	All Female	Withdrawn

Shahida Rehmani

PPPP

Total Bills: 2

Bill Title	Sponsorship	Status
The Pakistan Penal Code (Amendment) Bill, 2016	Individually	Withdrawn
The Pakistan Penal Code (Amendment) Bill, 2016		Dropped

Tahira Aurangzeb

PML-N

Total Bills: 1

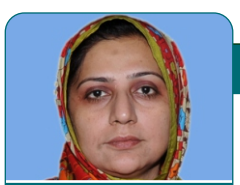
Bill Title	Sponsorship	Status
The Disabled Persons (Employment and Rehabilitation) (Amendment) Bill, 2014	Individually	Dropped

Farhana Qamar

PML-N

Total Bills: 1

Bill Title	Sponsorship	Status
The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2017 (Amendment in Article 156)	Jointly	Rejected



Dr. Shazia Sobia

PPPP

Total Bills: 1

Bill Title	Sponsorship	Status
The Un-attended Orphans (Rehabilitation and Welfare) Bill, 2016	Individually	Introduced

LEGISLATION

Belum Hasnain

PPPP

Total Bills: 1

Bill Title	Sponsorship	Status
The Pakistan Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2017	Individually	Rejected

Shakila Luqman

PML-N

Total Bills: 1

Bill Title	Sponsorship	Status
The Prevention of Mal-practices in Academia Bill, 2016	Individually	Introduced

Asyia Naz Tanoli

PML-N

Total Bills: 1

Bill Title	Sponsorship	Status
The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2017 (Amendment in Article 156)	Jointly	Rejected

Phyllis Azeem

PML-N

Total Bills: 1

Bill Title	Sponsorship	Status
The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2017 (Amendment in Article 156)	Jointly	Rejected

Nafisa Shah

PPPP

Total Bills: 1

Bill Title	Sponsorship	Status
The Political Parties Order (Amendment) Bill, 2013	Individually	Deferred

Seema Mohiuddin

PML-N

Total Bills: 1

Bill Title	Sponsorship	Status
The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2017 (Amendment in Article 156)	Jointly	Rejected

Mussarat Ahmadzeb

PTI

Total Bills: 1

Bill Title	Sponsorship	Status
The Criminal Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2016	Individually	Introduced

LEGISLATION

Shaista Pervaiz

PML-N

Total Bills: 1

Bill Title	Sponsorship	Status
The Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill, 2014	Individually	Withdrawn

Begum Tahira Bukhari

PML-N

Total Bills: 1

Bill Title	Sponsorship	Status
The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2017 (Amendment in Article 156)	Jointly	Rejected

Kiran Haider

PML-N

Total Bills: 1

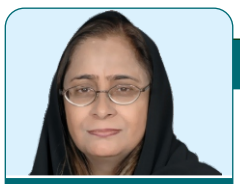
Bill Title	Sponsorship	Status
The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2017 (Amendment in Article 156)	Jointly	Rejected

Nafeesa Inayatullah

PTI

Total Bills: 1

Bill Title	Sponsorship	Status
The Torture, Custodial Death and Custodial Rape (Prevention and Punishment) Bill, 2015	Individually	Introduced



Dr. Azra Fazal Pecheho

PPPP

Total Bills: 1

Bill Title	Sponsorship	Status
The Compulsory Blood Test of the Relatives of Thalassaemia Patient Bill, 2016	Individually	Passed

Parveen Masood Bhatti

PML-N

Total Bills: 1

Bill Title	Sponsorship	Status
The Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues (Amendment) Bill, 2016	Individually	Introduced

LEGISLATION

PRIVATE MEMBER'S BILLS IN SENATE

Sassui Palijo

PPPP

Total Bills: 3

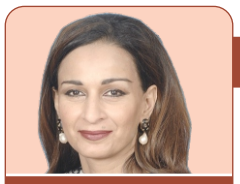
Bill Title	Sponsorship	Status
The Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2015	Individually	Passed
The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (Substitution of Article 251)	Jointly	Introduced
The Panama Papers Inquiries Bill, 2016		Introduced

Sehar Kamran

PPPP

Total Bills: 3

Bill Title	Sponsorship	Status
The Islamabad National Hospital Bill, 2017	Individually	Deferred
The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (Amendment of Article 251)	Jointly	Introduced
The Panama Papers Inquiries Bill, 2016		Introduced

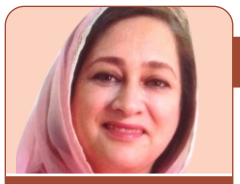


Sherry Rehman

PPPP

Total Bills: 2

Bill Title	Sponsorship	Status
The Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 2016	Individually	Passed
The Panama Papers Inquiries Bill, 2016	Jointly	Introduced

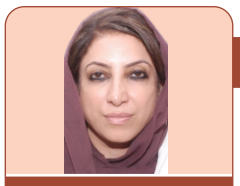


Samina Abid

PTI

Total Bills: 2

Bill Title	Sponsorship	Status
The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (Amendment of Article 251)	Jointly	Introduced
The Panama Papers Inquiries Bill, 2016	Jointly	Introduced



Robina Irfan

PML

Total Bills: 2

Bill Title	Sponsorship	Status
The Right to Information Bill, 2016	Jointly	Introduced
The Panama Papers Inquiries Bill, 2016		

Rubina Khalid

PPPP

Total Bills: 2

Bill Title	Sponsorship	Status
The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (Amendment of Article 251)	Jointly	Introduced
The Panama Papers Inquiries Bill, 2016		

LEGISLATION

Sitara Ayaz

ANP

Total Bills: 1

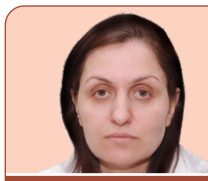
Bill Title	Sponsorship	Status
The Panama Papers Inquiries Bill, 2016	Jointly	Introduced

Nuzhat Sadiq

PML-N

Total Bills: 1

Bill Title	Sponsorship	Status
The Federal Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (Amendment) Bill, 2016	Individually	Passed



Zahida Khan

ANP

Total Bills: 1

Bill Title	Sponsorship	Status
The Panama Papers Inquiries Bill, 2016	Jointly	Introduced

Khalida Parveen

PPPP

Total Bills: 1

Bill Title	Sponsorship	Status
The Panama Papers Inquiries Bill, 2016	Jointly	Introduced

Kalsoom Perveen

PML-N

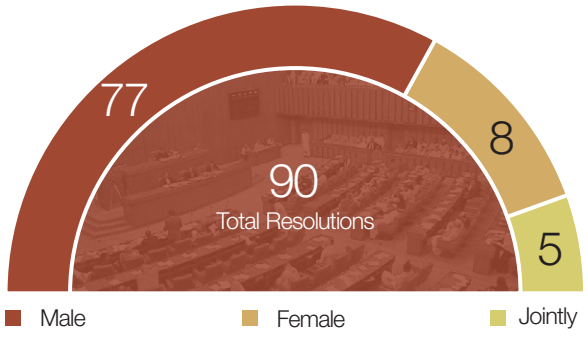
Total Bills: 1

Bill Title	Sponsorship	Status
The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (Amendment of Article 251)	Jointly	Introduced

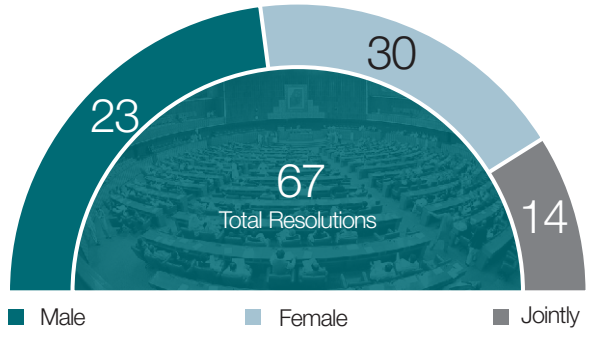
RESOLUTION

Through resolutions, a legislature, elected party/parties or a legislator expresses an opinion, makes recommendations, or conveys a message on a specific and important issue. During the reporting period, women members sponsored 30 resolutions individually and 14 jointly in the National Assembly with their male/female counterparts, of which 18 were adopted by the House. Similarly, eight resolutions were tabled by women lawmakers individually and five jointly in the Upper House. Of these 10 were adopted.

SENATE



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY



The women-sponsored resolutions adopted in the two Houses mainly focused on the issues related to the economy, tributes and condemnations, security and law and order.

SENATE

Senator Mudassir Sehar of PPPP took the lead as she sponsored five resolutions (individually and jointly), followed by Sitara Ayaz of ANP (4), Kalsoom Perveen, Samina Abid, Rubina Khalid and Gul Bashra of PkMAP (three each).

Muddassir Sehar (PPPP)
5

Sitara Ayaz (ANP)
4

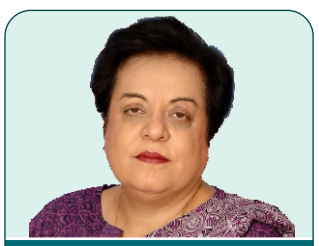
Kalsoom Perveen (PML-N)
3

Samina Abid (PTI)
3

Rubina Khalid (PPPP)
3

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

In National Assembly, PTI lawmaker Dr. Shireen Mazari sponsored five resolutions (individually and jointly) while four resolutions each were sponsored by Mussarat Ahmadzeb (PTI) and Belum Hasnain (PPPP) and three each by Sajida Begum (PTI), Shazia Marri (PPPP), Shakila Luqman (PML-N), Dr. Fouzia Hameed (MQM), Naeema Kishwar (JUI-F), and Nafisa Shah (PPPP)

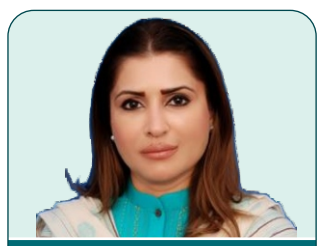


Dr. Shireen Mazari (PTI)
5

Mussarat Ahmadzeb (PTI)
4

Belum Hasnain (PPPP)
4

Sajida Begum (PTI)
3



Shazia Marri (PPPP)
3

Shakila Luqman (PML-N)
3

Dr. Fouzia Hameed (MQM)
3

Naeema Kishwar (JUI-F)
3

Ms. Nafisa Shah (PPPP)
3

AMENDMENT TO THE RULES

Both the Houses of Parliament are empowered by the Constitution to frame their own rules of procedures for their functioning. These rules are evolutionary and can be improved from time to time.

During the reporting period, as many as 40 amendments to the Rules of Business and Procedures appeared on the Orders of the Day – 28 in the Senate and 12 in the National Assembly. Of these, two motions were individually moved by women legislators belonging to MQM and JUI-F. One motion to amend the Rules of Procedure of the National Assembly was rejected while the other motion was deferred by the House.

The National Assembly adopted six amendment motions while three proposals for amendments were dropped and one each was deferred, rejected and referred to the relevant committee, respectively.

Similarly, the Senate adopted 22 out of 28 motions seeking amendments to the Rules of Procedure. One motion was withdrawn by the mover while five notices were referred to the Standing Committee on Rules of Procedure for further deliberation.

However, women lawmakers remained unsuccessful in moving any motion to amend the Rules of Procedure of the House of Federation during the reporting period.

Fouzia Hameed

MQM

Rejected

In rule 48, in sub-rule (2), for the word “and” the comma “,” shall be substituted and after the word “Naat” the word “and National Anthem” shall be added

Naeema Kishwar Khan

JUI-F

Deferred

That in the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the National Assembly, 2007, in rule 224, in sub-rule (2), for the words “not later than thirty days”, the words “as early as possible”, shall be substituted

CALLING ATTENTION NOTICES

Calling Attention Notice is a parliamentary tool to draw attention of the government towards the issues of public importance. There were 165 CANs brought to the two Houses of the Parliament – 58 in the National Assembly and 107 in the Senate. In all, 63 CANs were sponsored by women legislators individually or jointly with their male counterparts.

Women MNAs remained ahead of their male colleagues in raising public issues through CANs. They sponsored 19 CANs individually or in partnership with other females and 25 jointly with male Parliamentarians.

Of 58 CANs moved in the National Assembly, 46 were taken up by the House. As many as 14 taken up CANs were moved by women lawmakers individually while 20 CANs were jointly moved with other female or male MNAs. Ten taken up CANs were sponsored by male lawmakers individually and two in partnership with other male lawmakers.

Among 12 CANs not taken up, five were individually moved by female legislators and five were moved jointly by male and female lawmakers. Two unaddressed CANs were moved by one lawmaker in individual capacity.

In the House of Federation, women lawmakers sponsored seven CANs individually and 11 in collaboration with their male counterparts. One CAN was jointly sponsored by two female lawmakers.

Of 107 CANs appearing on Orders of the Day, 84 were taken up, five among them were sponsored by female lawmakers in their individual capacity, while one CAN was jointly sponsored by two female lawmakers and 10 CANs were sponsored jointly by male and female Senators.

Two CANs sponsored individually by as many female lawmakers and one CAN sponsored jointly were dropped by the House. There was no share of women lawmakers in nine deferred CANs, four not taken up and one referred to the committee.

The lawmakers raised issues of governance, energy, law and order and economy. Three CANs – two in the National Assembly and one in the Senate – focused on women-specific issues such as maternal health, alleged harassment against female anchorpersons in state-run television and honor-killing.

SENATE

Samina Abid (PTI)

3

Rubina Khalid (PPPP)

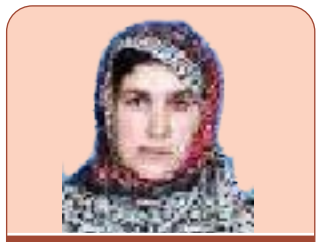
3

Sassui Palijo (PPPP)

3

Sherry Rehman (PPPP)

3



Gul Bashra (PkMAP)

2

Sehar Kamran (PPPP)

2

Kalsoom Perveen (PML-N)

2

Ayesha Raza (PML-N)

1

Sitara Ayaz (ANP)

1

Nuzhat Sadiq (PML-N)

1

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Asiya Naz Tanoli (PML-N)

11

Shakila Luqman (PML-N)

9

Surriya Asghar (PML-N)

9

Khalida Mansoor (PML-N)

7

QUESTIONS

Questions allow the lawmakers to conduct executive oversight by seeking information from the ministries.

The women Parliamentarians effectively oversaw the performance of the executive during the reporting period. Forty-two of the 70 women MNAs asked 1,208 questions in the Lower House whereas 58 male legislators asked 608 questions. Three women legislators asked more than 60 questions each.

Similarly, 10 out of 19 women Senators asked 233 questions during the reporting period whereas 46 male Senators asked 1,256 questions.

SENATE

In Senate, the highest number of 66 questions were asked by Nuzhat Sadiq (PML-N) followed by Rahila Magsi of PML-N (39), Kalsoom Perveen of PML-N (34), Najma Hameed of PML-N (31) and Sherry Rehman of PPPP (15).

Nuzhat Sadiq (PML-N)
66

Rahila Magsi (PML-N)
39

Kalsoom Perveen (PML-N)
34

Najma Hameed (PML-N)
31

Sherry Rehman (PPPP)
15

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

In National Assembly, JI MNA Aisha Syed raised 66 questions, Tahira Aurangzeb of PML-N (62), Belum Hasnain of PPPP (61), Nafeesa Khattak of PTI (60) and Sajida Begum of PTI (56).

Aisha Syed (JI)
66

Tahira Aurangzeb (PML-N)
62

Belum Hasnain (PPPP)
61

Nafeesa Khattak (PTI)
60

Sajida Begum (PTI)
56

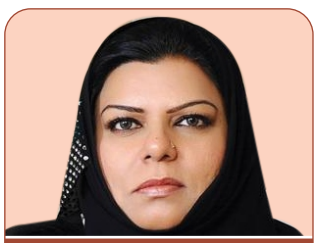
MOTIONS

MOTION UNDER RULE 218

Any Minister or a member may give notice of a motion under Rule 218 that any policy, situation, statement or any other matter may be taken into consideration. The Senate proceeds to discuss the motion after the mover concludes his/her speech and no question is put unless the Chair allows it.

During the reporting period, three women Senators raised eight such motions individually, four among them were sponsored by PPPP female lawmaker Mudassir Sehar Kamran, while three were sponsored by Kalsoom Perveen (PML-N) and Rahila Magsi (one). Six motions were moved jointly by female lawmakers in collaboration with their male counterparts. The women lawmakers highlighted issues related to the overseas Pakistanis, IT, political workers, governance, foreign affairs and the law and order situation.

Senator Mudassir Sehar Kamran (PPPP) sponsored seven motions (individually or jointly) followed by Sassui Palijo of PPPP (4) and three each by Samina Abid (PTI), Rubina Khalid (PPPP) and Sherry Rehman (PPPP).



Sehar Kamran (PPPP)
7

Sassui Palijo (PPPP)
4

Samina Abid (PTI)
3

Rubina Khalid (PPPP)
3

Sherry Rehman (PPPP)
3

MOTION UNDER RULE 259

Any Minister or a member may give notice of a motion that any policy, situation, statement or any other matter may be taken into consideration under Rule 259 of the Rules of Procedure of the National Assembly.

Eighteen women lawmakers raised 36 Motions under Rule 259 either individually or jointly during the reporting period. PML-N's Khalida Mansoor raised five motions (individually or jointly) followed by JUI-F lawmaker Naeema Kishwar Khan (four), Surriya Asghar (PML-N), Belum Hasnain (PPPP) and Aisha Syed (JI) three each, MQM's Fouzia Hameed and PPPP's Fehmida Mirza, Shazia Marri, Nafisa Shah, Shahida Rehmani (two each) and one each by Saman Sultana Jafri (MQM), Sajida Begum (PTI), Shahida Akhtar Ali (JI), and PML-N's Parveen Masood Bhatti, Shakila Luqman, Tahira Aurangzeb, Phyllis Azeem and Nighat Parveen.

The motions raised in the National Assembly were related to various issues of public importance, including governance, health, sports, economy, foreign affairs, energy and climate change. The National Assembly debated three women-sponsored motions while 33 motions moved by women lawmakers either individually or jointly remained unaddressed during the reporting period.

Khalida Mansoor (PML-N)
5

Naeema Kishwar (JUI-F)
4

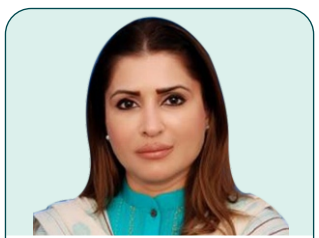
Surriya Asghar (PML-N)
3

Belum Hasnain (PPPP)
3

Aisha Syed (JI)
3

Dr. Fouzia Hameed (MQM)
2

Dr. Fehmida Mirza (PPPP)
2



Shazia Marri (PPPP)
2

Nafisa Shah (PPPP)
2

Shahida Rehmani (PPPP)
2

MOTIONS

ADJOURNMENT MOTIONS

According to the parliamentary rules of procedure, the lawmakers may move for adjournment of the proceedings to discuss an urgent matter of public importance with the consent of the Chair. In the Senate, the admissibility of Adjournment Motions is decided during the proceedings of the House whereas in the National Assembly, the Speaker decides the admissibility of AMs without bringing it in the House.

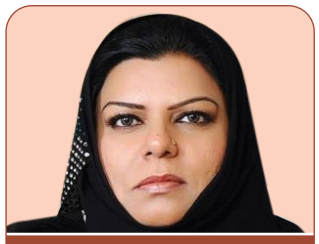
In the Senate, a total of 104 adjournment motions appeared on agenda of which four were individually sponsored by female lawmakers and 13 in joint collaboration with other male lawmakers. The Senators highlighted the issues related to human rights, politics, governance and law and order through it.

Sherry Rehman (PPPP)

7

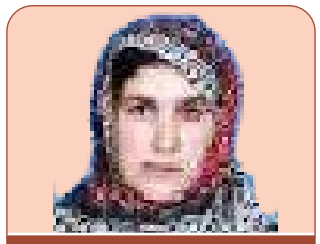
Sassui Palijo (PPPP)

7



Sehar Kamran (PPPP)

3



Gul Bashra (PkMAP)

2

Rubina Khalid (PPPP)

2

On the other hand, the National Assembly did not include any Adjournment Motion on its Orders of the Day throughout the reporting period.

Reference: http://www.na.gov.pk/uploads/1485749314_809.pdf

About FAFEN

- FAFEN is one of the most credible networks of civil society organizations working for strengthening citizens' voice and accountability in Pakistan since 2006.
- FAFEN has harnessed information technology for real-time monitoring, facilitation and technical backstopping of partners for effective and result-based program delivery.
- FAFEN is the only civil society group to have been invited by the Judicial Commission to present the evidence of illegalities and irregularities documented through the course of General Elections 2013 Observation. The systemic and procedural issues identified by FAFEN have been acknowledged by the commission in its detailed findings.
- FAFEN's recommendations for electoral reforms have contributed to the work of Parliamentary Committee for Electoral Reforms.
- FAFEN's advocacy for parliamentary transparency, accountability and reforms has shaped public discourse on parliamentary reforms. Improved citizens' access to parliamentary information including daily public release of parliamentarians' attendance records can be directly attributed to FAFEN's work.
- FAFEN deployed 18,000 and 40,000 non-partisan and trained observers for the systematic observation of general election 2008 and 2013, respectively, largest citizens' observation ever undertaken in Pakistan.
- FAFEN's evidence and recommendations for reforms have improved the quality of public and political discourse on elections, its issues and need for reforms. Leading political parties and media houses extensively use FAFEN's election findings and analysis to build a case for reforms.
- With more than 18,000 followers on Twitter and around 100,000 on Facebook, FAFEN is considered one of the most reliable sources of electoral and parliamentary information in the country.

www.openparliament.pk | www.parliamentfiles.com

Free and Fair Election Network

www.fafen.org