



# Violence Against Women in Pakistan: A qualitative review of statistics 2011

# Violence against Women in Pakistan: A qualitative review of statistics for 2011

Written and analyzed by:  
**Nasreen Azhar**

**Statistics gathered, compiled and reviewed by Aurat Foundations**

National statistics analyzed, compiled and reviewed by:  
**Rabeea Hadi**

Provincial/ICT statistics & reports compiled by:  
**Amna Fawad (ICT)**  
**Shirin Javed (Peshawar)**  
**Abid Ali, Nabeela Shaheen (Lahore)**  
**Shireen Khan, Fareeda Hannan (Karachi)**  
**Faiza Faiz, Ashfaq Mengal (Quetta)**



Under the Aurat Foundation's Project  
**Policy and Data Monitoring on Violence Against Women Project**

In collaboration with:  
**Violence against Women Watch Groups**

Under the auspices of:



With the support of:



## About the Author

Nasreen Azhar is a widely known women's rights and human rights activist. She completed her Bachelors in Sociology in 1958 and has been associated with the women's movement since 1981. She is a founder member of Women's Action Forum and a member of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan since its inception. She has wide-ranging work experience in journalism, adult literacy, research and rights-based social development. She has worked with several national rights-based organizations and served in a managerial capacity with an international non-governmental organization. She was appointed Member of the National Commission on the Status of Women from 2009 to 2012, and won an award as a Human Rights Defender in 2010. Ms Azhar works as an independent consultant.

## All rights reserved

This publication is provided gratis or sold, subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form of binding or cover other than in which it is published and without a similar condition being imposed on the subsequent publisher.

Preferences to this report and excerpts of the report can be reproduced with due acknowledge of the publication and Aurat Publication and Information Service Foundation (AF).

**Published by:** Aurat Publication and Information Service Foundation

**Title painting by:** Aliya Mirza

**Title technical design by:** Shahzad Ashraf

**Layout design by:** Shahzad Ashraf

**Printing by:** Print Maxx Blue Area, Islamabad, Ph: 051-2805065

**Date of publication:** July, 2012

*Dedicated to martyred Farida Afridi, who was a courageous Human and Women Rights Defender. She was the only women working for women's empowerment in Khyber Agency and was also a focal person of Aurat Foundation's Women Peace Programme in Khyber Agency.*

*She was brutally murdered by the militants on July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2012. We feel that is a great loss for women's movement in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. May her soul rest in peace.*



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Contents</b>	<b>Page</b>
List Acronyms	vii
Executive summary	xiv
<b>Section One:</b> Context: State, Society and History	1
<b>Section Two:</b> Overview of VAW Cases in Pakistan	7
2.1. Territorial distribution of VAW in Pakistan	11
2.2. Highest crime rate of VAW in 15 Districts	12
2.3. Major Categories of VAW Prevalent in Pakistan	13
2.4. FIR Status of VAW Cases	24
2.5. Marital Status of Victims/Survivors in VAW Cases in Pakistan	25
2.6. Age-Groups of VAW Victims	25
<b>Section Three:</b> Overview of VAW Incidents in Punjab	27
3.1. Overall Cases of VAW in Punjab	28
3.2. Number and Prevalence of VAW by District and Offence in Punjab	31
3.3. Prevalence of Major Categories of VAW in Punjab	33
3.4. FIR Status of cases of VAW	35
3.5. Marital Status of women suffering VAW	35
3.6. Age Groups of victims/survivors of VAW	36
<b>Section Four:</b> Overview of VAW Incidents in Sindh	37
4.1. Overall Cases of VAW in Sindh	38
4.2. Number and Prevalence of VAW by District and Offence	41
4.3. Major Categories of VAW in Sindh	43
4.4. FIR Status of cases of VAW	43
4.5. Marital Status of Victims/Survivors	44
4.6. Age Groups of Victims/Survivors	44
<b>Section Five:</b> Overview of VAW Incidents in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	47
5.1. Overall Cases of VAW in KP	48
5.2. Number and Prevalence of VAW by District and Offence	50
5.3. Prevalence of Major Categories of VAW in KP	52
5.4. FIR Status of the cases of VAW in KP	53
5.5. Marital Status of Victims/Survivors in the cases of VAW in KP	53
5.6. Age Groups of Victims or Survivors	53
<b>Section Six:</b> Overview of VAW Incidents in Balochistan	55
6.1. Overall Cases of VAW in Balochistan	56
6.2. Number and Prevalence of VAW by District and Offence in Balochistan	58
6.3. Prevalence of Major Categories of VAW in Balochistan	60
6.4. FIR Status of cases of VAW in Balochistan	61
6.5. Marital Status of Victims/Survivors in Balochistan	61
6.6. Age Groups of Victims/Survivors in the cases of VAW in Balochistan	61
<b>Section Seven:</b> Overview of VAW Incidents in ICT	63
7.1. Overall Cases of VAW in ICT	63
7.2. Bi-Annual distribution of VAW in ICT	66
7.3. Prevalence of Major Categories of VAW in ICT	66
7.4. FIR Status of cases of VAW in ICT	68
7.5. Marital Status of Victims/Survivors in ICT	68
7.6. Age Groups of Victims/Survivors in ICT	68

## LIST OF TABLES

Tables	page #
<b>Table 1:</b> Number & Percentage of Cases of VAW in Pakistan during 2008-2011	8
<b>Table 2:</b> Number & Percentage of Cases of VAW in Pakistan during 2011	10
<b>Table 3:</b> Offence-wise and province-wise breakdown of VAW cases in Pakistan	11
<b>Table 4:</b> Top 15 districts of VAW Crimes in Pakistan	13
<b>Table 5:</b> Top 10 districts of Murder during year 2008-2011	14
<b>Table 6:</b> Top 10 districts of ‘Honour ‘Killing during year 2008-2011	16
<b>Table 7:</b> Top 10 districts of Abduction/Kidnapping during year 2008-2011	17
<b>Table 8:</b> Top 10 districts of Suicide during year 2008-2011	18
<b>Table 9:</b> Top 10 districts of Rape/Gang-rape during year 2008-2011	19
<b>Table 10:</b> Top 10 districts of Acid Throwing during year 2008-2011	20
<b>Table 11:</b> Top 10 districts of Stove burning during year 2008-2011	20
<b>Table 12:</b> Top 10 districts of Domestic violence during year 2008-2011	22
<b>Table 13:</b> Top 10 districts of Sexual Assault during year 2008-2011	22
<b>Table 14:</b> Top 10 districts of Miscellaneous during year 2008-2011	24
<b>Table 15:</b> Number of FIR s registered province-wise	24
<b>Table 16:</b> Marital Status of Victims/Survivors in VAW Cases in Pakistan	25
<b>Table 17:</b> Age Breakdown of Victims/Survivors in VAW Cases in Pakistan 2011	25
<b>Table 18:</b> Number & Percentage of cases of VAW in Punjab during 2011	30
<b>Table 19:</b> Number & Percentage of Cases of VAW in Punjab during 2008-2011	31
<b>Table 20:</b> Bi-annual distribution of VAW Cases in Punjab	31
<b>Table 21:</b> District-wise Date on VAW in Punjab in 2011	32
<b>Table 22:</b> FIR Status of cases of VAW in Punjab	35
<b>Table 23:</b> Marital Status of women suffering VAW in Punjab	35
<b>Table 24:</b> Age-Group wise distribution of VAW victims/survivors in Punjab	36
<b>Table 25:</b> Number & Percentage of Cases of VAW in Sindh during 2011	40
<b>Table 26:</b> Number & Percentage of Cases of VAW in Punjab during 2008-2011	41
<b>Table 27:</b> Bi-Annual Distribution of VAW Cases in Sindh	42
<b>Table 28:</b> District-wise Data on VAW in Sindh 2011	42
<b>Table 29:</b> FIR Status of Victims/Survivors in Sindh	44
<b>Table 30:</b> Marital Status of Victims/Survivors in Sindh	44
<b>Table 31:</b> Age Groups wise distribution of VAW Victims/Survivors	45
<b>Table 32:</b> Number & Percentage of Cases of VAW in KP during 2011	49
<b>Table 33:</b> Bi-Annual Distribution of VAW Cases in KP	50
<b>Table 34:</b> Number & Percentage of Cases of VAW in KP during 2008-2011	51
<b>Table 35:</b> District-wise date on VAW in KP in 2011	51
<b>Table 36:</b> FIR Status of the cases of VAW in KP 2011	53
<b>Table 37:</b> Marital Status of women suffering VAW	53
<b>Table 38:</b> Age Groups wise distribution of VAW Victims/Survivors	54
<b>Table 39:</b> Number & Percentage of Cases of VAW in Balochistan during 2011	57
<b>Table 40:</b> Number & Percentage of Cases of VAW in Balochistan during 2008-2011	58
<b>Table 41:</b> Bi-Annual Distribution of VAW Cases in Balochistan	59
<b>Table 42:</b> District-wise Date on VAW in Balochistan in 2011	59
<b>Table 43:</b> FIR Status of cases of VAW in Balochistan 2011	61
<b>Table 44:</b> Marital Status of Victims/Survivors in Baluchistan	61
<b>Table 45:</b> Age Group distribution of Victims/Survivors in Baluchistan	62
<b>Table 46:</b> Number & Percentage of Cases of VAW in ICT during 2011	65
<b>Table 47:</b> Number & Percentage of Cases of VAW in ICT during 2008- 2011	66
<b>Table 48:</b> Bi-Annual Distribution of VAW Cases ICT	66
<b>Table 49:</b> FIR Status of the cases of VAW in ICT 2011	68
<b>Table 50:</b> Marital Status of Victims/Survivors in ICT	68
<b>Table 51:</b> Age Group distribution of Victims/Survivors in ICT	69

## ACRONYMS

DV	Domestic Violence
EVAW	Elimination of Violence Against Women
HRCP	Human Rights Commission of Pakistan
ICT	Islamabad Capital Territory
KP	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
NCSW	National Commission on the Status of Women
VAW	Violence Against Women
AF	Aurat Foundation
CEDAW	The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (It's an international United Nation (U.N.) human rights treaty that guarantees women substantive equality and non-discrimination)

## GLOSSARY

**Jihad:** War waged by Muslims against perceived enemies of Islam, or ‘infidels.’

**Jirga or Panchayat:** An assembly of male elders, usually tribal, an informal body formed for purposes of resolving disputes and deciding social problems. The term in Pashto but the *jirga* exists throughout Pakistan. Jirgas were declared unlawful by the Sindh High Court, but they continue to function. They are dominated by influential members of the community who are usually conservative and hold patriarchal views. Decisions taken by them are known to be anti-women.

**Qisas and Diyat Ordinance:** A law promulgated as an Islamic law by the military dictator, General Ziaul Haq, that made murder a compoundable crime. In addition to encouraging criminals the law has allowed those who kill women on the pretext of ‘honour’ to escape punishment by seeking forgiveness from family members.

**Vanni:** A custom in tribal areas of Pakistan, but also prevalent in Punjab and Sindh, whereby young girls and female children are given as compensation and forcibly married to members of the enemy clan to end tribal feuds, or to seek forgiveness for crimes committed by male members of the family.

**Swara:** A Pashto word for the custom prevalent in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Afghanistan whereby young girls and female children are given as compensation and forcibly married to a member of the enemy clan to end tribal feuds or to compensate for a crime committed by a male member of the family.

**Karo Kari:** A Sindhi term literally meaning ‘disreputable man disreputable woman’ (who have brought disgrace and dishonor to the clan or family by indulging in an ‘illicit’ relationship), an ‘offence’ for which, according to cultural tradition, such a man and woman must be killed in order to redeem family or clan honour.

## Preface

As part of its continuing and concerted efforts to have a society with zero tolerance to violence against women, Aurat Foundation (AF) is proud to have successfully completed the challenging task of launching the fourth consecutive annual report on State of Violence against Women (VAW) in Pakistan for the year 2011.

The compilation of the data on VAW under its national programme “Policy and Data Monitor on Violence against Women” proved to be distressing for the AF staff as the findings highlighted the bitter reality of the overall increase in violence against women in Pakistan.

This programme, despite the staggering figures before us, continues to believe that in order to take another step towards achieving a violence-free society, it is necessary to collect and collate data on VAW, as is done in this report. We believe that the quantitative and qualitative facts, figures and analysis presented in this report will provide strong evidence and a solid ground to not only AF but many other activists, researchers, Parliamentarians and media persons to lobby against the epidemic of VAW.

However, it is important to also acknowledge the positive gradual shift that has occurred in Pakistan. It is a matter of pride for the Aurat Foundation that in the 25 years since its inception, it has witnessed and played a vital role in the transformation of the social mindset from highly resistant to any discussion on women rights to one that resents and reacts to any argument against women rights. The increase in reporting of VAW and the prominence given to these stories in the news is reflective of this transformation.

Other measures of success can be seen in the Parliament itself, which once denied a debate and resolution condemning the honour killing of Samia Imran in her lawyer’s office in 1999. The past 7 years (2004-2011) are monumental in the context of legislative upsurge on crucial women’s rights issues. It is unprecedented in Pakistan’s legislative history that seven progressive and positive laws to cover specific areas of women’s lives came in during just seven years. These included a law on Criminal Law (Amendment) Act (2004) [the law on honour crimes]; the Protection Against Women Act 2006 [the law amending the Zina and Qazf Ordinances]; Sexual Harassment at the Workplace Act 2010 and the amendment to the PPC including the definition of ‘harassment’; Prevention of Anti-Women Practices, 2011, Bill, Acid Control and Acid Crimes Prevention, 2011, Bill, and The Women in Distress and Detention Fund (Amendment) Bill, 2011.

Alongside this, the National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW) has submitted a petition against the Jirgas (parallel judicial system) in the Supreme Court, which is currently being heard by the Supreme Court, terming it illegal, unlawful, inhuman and against the canons of law and justice which must be prohibited and stopped immediately. It says that ‘Jirga’ system, assuming powers of civil and criminal courts and implementing its own orders must be declared unconstitutional.

This all demonstrates an evolution in the mindsets and thinking of not just the people sitting in the legislature, but also in the society itself. The passage of these laws also reflects the history of continuous efforts by women's rights movement and women in political parties for several decades. However, although these laws have been passed, it will be a major challenge to ensure that all women in Pakistan in all professions, groups, regions, castes, classes and age groups, benefit from these laws.

Despite all this positive movement, there are as many negative movements and obstacles. This includes the debacle of the domestic violence bill, which was passed unanimously by the National Assembly in 2009, but lapsed as a result of the 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment. It was then delegated to the provinces as a provincial subject, despite the issue being one of national importance. A bill pertaining to the Islamabad Capital Territory was then passed by the Senate but since then has not been taken further. The Domestic Violence Bill compromised in the Parliament twice for political reasons shows that priorities of political parties change with the situation and consistent efforts are required to pursue the women agenda.

Another example is the continued support of the traditional, conservative and anti-women mindset continues to be seen through support of some 'public representatives' who defended the inhuman tradition of honour killings and of the protection offered by a number of sitting MNAs, protecting a feudal accused of throwing acid on his wife Fakhra Younas who later committed suicide in Italy.

The lack of priority can also be seen in the lack of importance given to women's institutions such as the provincial Women Development Departments, which are in the process of adjusting to new responsibilities after devolution have not been given any support or adequate budget. They are low on capacity and finances and are often sidelined by other departments. However, they are given no space or support by the Government.

All of these examples are critical junctures where adequate societal or government support or action would have done a great deal towards the protection and prevention of VAW perpetuated in rising incidence on a daily basis. These merely exhibit the fact that we still have more challenges than successes. Nevertheless, AF remains determined to find different methods and avenues towards creating a strong positive change with respect of VAW.

This quantitative and qualitative review of statistics for VAW in Pakistan during 2011 is part of the same effort. It is a compilation of four regional reports put together by our provincial offices, in addition to the report from Islamabad covering Islamabad Capital Territory. The credit for compiling the statistical data goes to the dedicated staff of AF's regional offices under "Policy and Data Monitor on VAW" and the team at the head office in Islamabad.

The comprehensive review of data and the qualitative analysis has been done by Nasreen Azher, an eminent human rights campaigner who has years of experience in research and advocacy on human rights issues and as former member of the National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW). Nasreen's analysis shows her extraordinary ability to dig out the mindset behind an incidence of VAW even if it is brief news in a small newspaper. She

presents a complete picture and broader overview of VAW situation in the country while connecting all the missing links, often ignored while analyzing the situation of violence against women. Her emphasis on ‘poverty’ as an overarching factor in initiation and perpetuation of VAW may well seem to some feminist friends as ‘over-emphasis’, we respect her viewpoint and think that class perspective is so essential in explaining overall context of violence prevalent in society today, though we believe that VAW is deep-rooted and common in all sections of society, irrespective of social and economic divides.

The demand for these reports has also been more than anticipated by AF, not just by local NGOs, but the media, who not only wanted the most recent numbers, but also on accessing information about the years much before the project date. The figures and analysis have quoted in the Parliament, research and discussions and on international forums. The response was an achievement for us but it requires a whole new set up to deal with the new situation and to make data collection a permanent part of AF projects.

We would also like to appreciate our partners Trocaire for their commitment and constant support to the cause of elimination of violence against women in Pakistan.

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

**Rabeea Hadi**  
Manager Programmes  
&Coordination  
Aurat Foundation



# Executive Summary

## Overall Context

In the unjust economic system that rules the world, where a few powerful groups and individuals appropriate the resources of the vast majority and there is a huge gap between rich and poor, frustrations can lead to violence and crime. The lack of essential services, unemployment and a burgeoning population, coupled with the promotion of a culture of consumerism and greed has led to the de-humanizing of societies all over the world, and crime and violence at all levels have increased. Patriarchy, which is the root cause of violence against women and derives benefit from their exploitation, forms an intrinsic part of this system

In Pakistan, along with crime in general, which has increased, VAW continues to be a major problem. Patriarchal values, embedded in tribal and feudal traditions, provide support to customary practices, such as *vanni* and *swara* and the killing of women in the name of ‘honour,’ while bad governance and laws allow perpetrators to often escape punishment. The proliferation of religious extremism as a consequence of Cold War politics has served to further undermine the rights of women in the country. Though discriminatory laws imposed in the name of Islamization by the military dictator, General Ziaul Haq in the 1970s and 80s, have been modified in some cases, laws such as the Hudood Laws, the Law of Evidence and the Qisas and Diyat Law still remain on the books.

Notwithstanding these considerable obstacles, women in the country have achieved recognition in diverse fields. At different levels women are struggling for their basic rights and changing the patriarchal landscape, Their achievements can largely be credited to the vibrant women’s and human rights movements and to the struggle for a just and democratic society, which brought greater awareness to the media, the judiciary, political parties and decision making bodies, such as the legislatures. Recently the cross-party Women’s Parliamentary Caucus, with support from the Government, enacted six laws that address the issue of violence against women: the Protection of Women against Sexual Harassment at the Workplace Act and the accompanying Criminal Laws Amendment Act 2010; the Women in Distress and Detention Fund Act 2011; the Anti Women Practices Act 2011; the Acid Crimes and Control Act 2011; the Domestic Violence Act 2012 (passed by the Senate for the Islamabad Capital Territory); and the National Commission on the Status of Women Act 2012.

## Overview of VAW Cases in Pakistan

It is safe to assume that the figures calculated in this report do not represent the true picture, as according to estimates VAW is widely prevalent in Pakistan, but a vast number of cases are not registered by the police and the media only gets to hear about the most gruesome and shocking incidents. VAW is still considered a ‘private’ matter, women hesitate to speak out against the humiliation they have suffered, or are afraid of more violence and are reluctant to

risk being embroiled in court proceedings for years on end. These factors make it difficult to compile accurate figures for VAW.

In 2011, the number of VAW cases reported was 8539, which is higher by 6.74% than the previous year. Keeping in mind the above discussion, it is important to note at this juncture that the fact that more cases are being reported could also mean that there is greater public awareness about the issue and more women are coming forward to challenge the injustice.

In 2011, the violence most prevalent was Abduction and Kidnapping followed by Murder. However fewer cases were reported this year than previously, and the trend over the past four years, from 2008 to 2011, shows a 6.57% reduction. Meanwhile, an increase of 9.68% was reported in murder cases. This is not surprising, as violence and crime in general have increased and impunity for perpetrators, particularly for those committing crimes against women, is widely prevalent.

Rape/Gang Rape appears as the third most common form of violence against women, and 827 cases were reported. However, though newspapers and TV channels report incidents almost every day, Rape in particular, is under-reported as the victims and their families preferring to keep the matter hidden because of the shame and disgrace attached to the crime. Here again, the fact that many perpetrators manage to escape punishment must surely embolden others to commit the same crime. A total of 758 suicide incidents, the fourth most frequent type of VAW, were reported as against 633 in the previous year, showing an increase of 19.75%. This translates to 5.5 women committing suicide every day, a huge number considering that only the most desperate women would resort to taking such an extreme step. Excessive poverty, exacerbated by a steep rise in food prices might also have driven some women to kill themselves, considering that women are, not uncommonly, left alone to fend for themselves and their children when the men of the family fall ill, die or seek comfort in drugs. Fifth in order of occurrence was Honour Killings, and 705 women were murdered on the pretext of having brought dishonor to the family or clan. Perpetrators of honour killings, usually brothers, uncles or fathers of the victim, can escape punishment by being pardoned by other family members under the pernicious Qisas and Diyat Law. The Criminal Law Amendment Act passed in 2004 did not, unfortunately, make the crime non-compoundable, which is what women had been demanding. It needs urgent review.

Incidents of Domestic Violence, the most common form of VAW around the world, numbered 610 cases, as against 486 in the previous year, showing a massive increase of 25.51%. Of all the different forms of VAW Domestic Violence - together with Rape - is the most concealed and under-reported. It must also be remembered that only the most violent and shocking incidents get reported in the media. The present Parliament has shown greater awareness than its predecessors for the need for protective legislation, and after the passage of the Domestic Violence Bill for ICT with the unanimous support of the Senate in late 2011, women legislators are lobbying for a Bill at the national level. However, to date no actual law on domestic violence has yet been passed.

Sexual assault is at number seven, and 110 cases, compared to 74 in 2010 were reported showing an increase of 48.65%, followed by Acid Throwing, a horrendous crime that is, unfortunately, not uncommon in the country. The last form of VAW reported was Burning, with 29 women who suffered this dreadful violence, showing an improvement of 23.68% over last year's figures of 38 women. A large number of VAW cases, 1792 in all, are listed under the category of Miscellaneous. This figure shows an increase of 13.42% over last year's record. The category includes sexual harassment, child marriages, trafficking, attempted rapes, attempted suicides and other forms of violence.

## **Territorial Distribution of VAW in Pakistan**

The largest number of VAW cases in all categories were reported from Punjab, which at first glance should not be surprising considering that approximately 56% of the population lives in that province. However, even if the size of the population is taken into account, the 72.46% of the total 8539 incidents reported were much too high. The numbers reported for Rape/Gang Rape, Suicide, Acid Throwing, Burning and Miscellaneous crimes in particular were disproportionately high compared to the other provinces. The category of Rape/Gang Rape, for example, reflects a shockingly high rate of occurrence, and 734 or 88.5% out of the total 827 such cases were reported from Punjab.

As regards Honour Killing, figures show that though women are killed on the pretext of having brought shame to the family or tribe in all parts of the country, Sindh accounted for a disproportionately high number. This form of VAW is known as *karo kari* in Sindh, and it is accepted as a time honored tradition by the feudal landowners, influential leaders of local tribes and clans. Out of a total of 705 incidents of Honour Killing 266 or 37.73% were reported from Sindh, in comparison to its 22.54% share in the population.

Similarly, disproportionately high rates for Murder, 21.65%, and for Domestic Violence, 17.04%, compared to its population of 13.14% were reported from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Unlike Punjab and Sindh, which have a history of feudalism, the culture in KP is derived from tribal traditions, and patriarchy manifests itself through tribal codes and tribal way of life, which, right or wrong, tend to be jealously guarded by its male inhabitants.

Balochistan is the largest but least populated of the four provinces, with approximately 5% of the total population of the country, and few cases have been reported from there. This is understandable because the population is dispersed over a large area, and getting information across is a difficult task. Nevertheless, 86 cases of Honour Killing were recorded, which is significant. Balochistan hosts people of different ethnicities, but the majority of them are Baloch and Pukhtun, both communities having tribal origins. Though many Baloch and Pushtun women have achieved prominence in the country, the majority lives cloistered lives and has few options for gaining personal autonomy. The 193 VAW cases reported are undoubtedly only the tip of the iceberg.

A total of 159 cases were reported from Islamabad Capital Territory, with the highest number falling in the Miscellaneous category, 41, followed by Murder, 34, and Abduction /Kidnapping, 27. The 159 or 1.86% incidents reported from ICT were again a high number, considering that only 0.8% of the population lives in this city.

## **Districts with the Highest Rate of VAW**

The districts where the highest numbers of VAW incidents were recorded, were Lahore, Faisalabad and Rawalpindi, in that order. These are all urban centers with large populations and high rates of rural to urban migration. The highly industrialized city of Faisalabad, in particular, attracts people from the surrounding areas who are in search of employment. Though the bigger cities can be expected to have better policing and administration, they also offer anonymity and opportunities to perpetrators to escape. Women, who have left their family homes and moved to the city, may find that they have become more vulnerable to violence from their men, particularly if they want to challenge their previous traditional submissive roles. However, violence is not visited only on the new residents of these cities, but affects all women who live there. For this poor governance, insensitive police and administration, as well as the patriarchal mindset of all concerned are to be blamed.

## **Registration of FIRs**

Data regarding registration of First Information Report (FIR) reveals that a high proportion of incidents, 10.67%, were not registered with the police. Reasons for this may vary, ranging from: reluctance of survivors and families to appear in court, delays in court procedures, lack of response from the police, reluctance of the police to register the case, pressure on the victim and her family to opt for compromise, or even interference from and intervention by influential persons in support of the perpetrator! Furthermore, there was no information for another 10.34% cases, indicating that a fair proportion of VAW cases were either settled out of court or were just forgotten. However, 78.99% cases did get registered, which was a marginal improvement over the previous year's 76.31% cases.

## **Marital Status and Age Group of Victims/Survivors**

The available information shows that the majority of victims and survivors were married women (42.78%) and unmarried women (39.60%). Only 1.46% were widows and divorced women. Data regarding age groups reveals that the majority (14.93%) were between the ages of 0 to 18 years, and 11.16% were between 19 and 36 years. Only 5.40% were 37 years and above. However, information about ages was difficult to obtain, and there was no record for 68.50% women.

## Section One:

### Context

Though women's rights has been on the political agenda in South Asia since the early twentieth century when the movement for independence from British rule was gathering momentum, issues generally agitated concerned political and social rights, such as the right to vote or the right to education. There were demands that the custom of *sati*, according to which Hindu women were called upon to immolate themselves on the funeral pyre when their husbands died, should be banned, or that widows should be allowed to remarry. But the issue of violence against women, including domestic violence was only focused upon when women realized that they were being battered and physically and mentally subjected to violence as a class the world over. This happened quite recently in the middle of the twentieth century in different parts of the world.

The UN too did not recognize that women as women had special issues and needs that required separate attention. It finally realized that its Declaration of Human Rights issued in 1945 was 'gender blind,' and in 1979 issued a women-focused convention, the Convention for the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) that addressed the different forms of violence and discrimination that women have to face. But it was not until 1993 that the UN World Conference on Human Rights, held in Vienna, acknowledged unambiguously that "women's rights are human rights"

The UN General Assembly defined: Violence Against Women as "any act of gender based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or mental harm and suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life." The Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women (1993) points out that "this violence could be perpetrated by assailants of either gender, family members, and even the State itself."

On 17th December 1999, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution proclaiming 25th November as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. The date commemorates the day that the three Mirabal sisters, who were political activists from the Dominican Republic and were violently assassinated because they symbolized resistance against the Trujillo dictatorship.

Violence Against Women (VAW) is a common phenomenon across class barriers and educational differences. It can affect not just women from the under-privileged sections of society, but also women in the so called upper strata, educated women and women highly placed in their professions too can be, and routinely are, subjected to violence.

How can this be explained? Could it be that human beings have an inbuilt desire for power and enjoy the ability to subjugate others, as some believe?

Friedrich Engels in his famous essay entitled *Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State* argues that women were first assigned to a subordinate position in society when the concept of private property, as opposed to collective or tribal property, was introduced in ancient times. As men acquired land, domestic animals and slaves, women too came to be looked upon as private property. They were confined to the house where their duties were to bear and nurture the master's children and look after his household. The issue of paternity also acquired importance as men with property were anxious to leave their property to their own progeny. It seems probable that the pattern set by those who held power was then adopted by the general populace and became the norm.

The German socialist-feminist scholar Maria Mies further expanded on Engels' theory. In her book *Patriarchy and Accumulation on a World Scale* Mies says that violence against women is a tool that is used to keep them in a subordinate position in society. This is necessary because women provide the essential underpinning to the economic structures of Capitalism, just as it did to Feudalism in the past. She explains that the free labour provided by women in the household enables the capitalist to rake in more profits. Women cook and clean, bear and rear children and ensure that the work-force is in a fit condition to work efficiently. If this labour had to be paid for the cost of production would rise phenomenally.

The 1993 UN Declaration on EVAW seems to uphold Mies' point of view when it says that violence against women 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 violence against women is one of the mechanisms by which women are forced into a subordinate position compared to men."

This would suggest that the subordination of women is not a natural phenomenon but is a learnt attitude that has been cultivated and socialized down the ages so that it is accepted as natural behavior by society. It is an injustice that continues to be sustained because it benefits the rapacious capitalist system and allows the male population to experience a sense of superiority and power over their womenfolk.

In the unjust economic system that today rules the world, where a few powerful groups and individuals appropriate the resources of the vast majority and there is a huge gap between rich and poor, frustrations tend to lead to violence and crime. The lack of essential services, unemployment and a burgeoning population, coupled with the promotion of a culture of consumerism and greed has led to the de-humanizing of societies all over the world, and crime and violence at all levels has increased.

Today VAW is a worldwide problem, including in Pakistan. In the areas that constitute Pakistan, colonialism superimposed on an agrarian economy and subsequent policies of economic globalization sharpened divisions between the rich and the poor. As a consequence of poor governance and the failure of the state to address social injustices, there was a resurgence of patriarchal power structures, such as the *jirga* (village council of male elders) and tribal/feudal customs and practices, which have served to undermine the status of women. Although in the past sixty-three years of the country's existence women have achieved much progress and are playing a significant role in every walk of life, remnants of patriarchal structures remain embedded in government, communities and families, and together with poverty are negatively impacting women's lives. Poor women have lower access to education, health and resources than men – while women in general have restrictions placed on their mobility and decision making powers, even as regards decisions concerning their own lives.

The extent of VAW in the country is not accurately known, but newspapers and TV channels report horrendous cases every day. Estimates suggest that the problem is widespread, as only the most shocking cases are reported and families are generally reluctant to make the matter public. Women also hesitate to seek help from the State when they know that cases will linger on for years, and doubt if after the long period of waiting justice will be done.

The Human Development Indicators paint a dismal picture of the overall social status of women. There are fewer females than males in the population, indicating a higher death rate in consequence of poor nutrition and inadequate health care; although latest figures show that the gender gap in the population is shrinking. Repeated pregnancies, coupled with poor health services, as well as social restrictions on mobility restrict access to medical care and contribute to a high rate of maternal mortality.

Only about one third of the female population is literate. Despite the fact that primary education is considered a fundamental right in the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan 1973 and even though resistance to girls' education has greatly diminished over the years, there remain problems with accessing education whether due to lack of schools in each district, or lack of teachers, Restriction on mobility makes it difficult for girls to reach schools which may be a little further away, thereby depriving them of education. Poverty continues to be widespread and is one of the main obstacle to education at the primary stage. Girls are needed to help out at home to sustain the family where economic resources are limited. Statistics show that net enrolment falls as girls grow older and patriarchal controls are tightened, and the trend becomes most pronounced at tertiary level.

The rise of religious extremism and political Islam dating from the military dictatorship of Gen. Ziaul Haq and the Afghan War in 1979, which has led to the introduction of militant *jihad*, poses a serious threat to the rights of women in Pakistan. While, on the one hand

women are struggling to break the shackles of patriarchy, patriarchal tendencies are being further reinforced by religious extremism and are not only threatening girls' education in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, but are as a whole seeking to constrict women's space and autonomy and undermine their legal status across the economic and social spectrum.

One of the main issues is the treatment of victims of violence. These victims have little in the way of support systems. The criminal justice system in Pakistan is weak and perpetrators are often able to escape punishment. The situation is particularly dire in the rural areas where the customary anti-women practices continue to exact their toll and *jirgas* and *panchayats* hand out barbaric punishments to women and girls. In these situations the influential and powerful usually intervene to pressurize the police and protect the criminal.

In fact, the near breakdown of the criminal justice system is the single most important reason that VAW, and crime in general, continues to increase year by year. Faisal Siddiqi, an Advocate writing in the Dawn says: "the criminal justice system...is especially unable to provide justice to the most vulnerable e.g. the poor, the females and minorities. It is a criminal justice system which is overwhelmed by a culture of male chauvinism among lawyers, the lower court judges and court staff, and by the culture of money...there is no accountability within the criminal justice system if the women suffering violence fail to get justice."

Notwithstanding the considerable obstacles faced, women in the country have achieved recognition in diverse fields. At different levels women are struggling for their basic rights and changing the patriarchal landscape, whether it is the right to education, the right to work, or challenging oppressive customs that circumscribe their right to choose marriage partners and lead their own lives. Their achievements can largely be credited to the vibrant women's and human rights movements and to the struggle for a just and democratic society, which brought greater awareness to the media, the judiciary, political parties and decision making bodies, such as the legislatures.

Alongside this, some positive developments have taken place in recent times as a consequence of the thirty years of constant advocacy and lobbying by women activists and human rights organizations. The media is now showing greater sensitivity and is playing an important role in raising public awareness regarding VAW. And governments have responded by setting up crisis centers and passing pro-woman laws.

The present government led by the Pakistan Peoples' Party has in its four years in power passed no less than six laws that address violence against women. These are: the Protection of Women against Sexual Harassment at the Workplace Act and the accompanying Criminal Laws Amendment Act 2010; the Women in Distress and Detention Fund Act 2011; the Anti Women Practices Act 2011; the Acid Crimes and Control Act 2011; the Domestic Violence Act 2012 (passed by the Senate for the Islamabad Capital Territory); and the National Commission on the Status of Women Act 2012. This has been made possible by the strong support in Parliament for these laws from the cross-party Women's Parliamentary Caucus in

the National Assembly and the ruling coalition government. In fact, the past four years have witnessed unprecedented cooperation and unity of purpose between the Women's Parliamentary Caucus, a proactive and determined National Commission on the Status of Women and women activists regarding issues of women's rights and violence against women.



## **Section Two**

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

In 2011 the total number of VAW cases reported was 8539, higher by 6.74% than in the previous year in which 8000 cases had been reported. However, it is safe to assume that the above figures do not represent the true picture, as according to estimates VAW is widely prevalent in Pakistan but a vast number of cases are not registered by the police, and the media only gets to hear about the most gruesome and shocking incidents. This is because VAW is still considered a private matter, women hesitate to speak out against the humiliation they have suffered, or are afraid of more violence in case they do speak out, and women and their relatives are reluctant to risk being embroiled in court proceedings for years on end. These factors make it difficult to compile accurate figures for VAW.

There are no accurate figures, for example, from the flood affected areas of Sindh where, for the second successive year, unusually heavy monsoon rains and swollen rivers rendered many thousands homeless. Experience all over the world has shown that in disaster situations displaced populations become vulnerable to exploitation by criminals, and women and children are particularly targeted. Though incidents of young girls being sold by desperate parents, or married off to old men, or trafficked were sometimes heard, there are no records of the full extent of the violence.

The fact that more cases were reported for the year could also indicate that there is now greater public awareness about the issue of VAW, the media has generally become more sensitive and women are speaking out. This is a positive development for which credit can be given to the long years of consistent awareness raising and campaigning carried out by women activists and human rights organizations and groups, and also to the brave stand taken by women who have suffered violence, like Mukhtaran Mai and Sonia Naz, to fight for their rights.

According to the statistics presented in this report the form of violence against women most prevalent in 2011 was Abduction and Kidnapping followed by Murder. But compared to 2010 there were fewer cases reported in 2011, and the four year trend reflects a decrease of 6.57%. However, it cannot be said with any certainty that abduction/kidnapping is actually on the top of the list, as in many cases when women leave their homes voluntarily, usually to marry men of their choice, families generally report abduction. On the other hand, reports of young girls and women being trafficked for prostitution are often heard, but there are no separate figures for such cases.

Meanwhile, an upward trend of 9.68% can be seen in murder cases during the four year period. This is not surprising, as violence and crime in general have increased in society, and impunity for perpetrators, particularly for those committing crimes against women, is widely prevalent. It was interesting to compare the prompt action taken by the Supreme Court of

Pakistan and authorities against the influential Aslam Midhyana for breaking the legs of an elderly male schoolteacher – a shocking crime no doubt, but if only the same promptness could be shown when cases of atrocities against women are reported! The fact is that VAW has become so commonplace that it is an everyday occurrence and is not treated with the seriousness that it deserves.

The number of murder cases reported, 1575, does not include women killed on the pretext of family ‘honour.’ These are listed separately at fifth position as Honour Killings, and number 705. The two figures together add up to 2280. The criticism is sometimes heard that many more men than women are murdered in the country, but women activists tend to focus disproportionately and unfairly on the murder of women. But they forget that men are killed for a variety of reasons; whereas, women are nearly always killed for having committed the ‘crime’ of not conforming to the patriarchal gender role prescribed for them by society.

One of the worst laws introduced by the Zia-ul-Haq regime was the Qisas and Diyat Ordinance, which made murder crimes compoundable. Perpetrators of honour killings, who are usually brothers, uncles or fathers of the victim, can always, under this pernicious law, escape punishment by being pardoned by family members. The law against honour killings, called the Criminal Law Amendment Act 2004 did not, unfortunately, make the crime non-compoundable, which is what women had been demanding. This law needs urgent review. (HRCP figures are somewhat higher at 943 cases of honour killings reported in 2011).

**Table-1: Number & Percentage of Cases of VAW in Pakistan during 2008-2011**

Categories of Crime	Number of Cases of VAW in Pakistan during January to December 2008 to January to December 2011					Percentage increase/decrease in VAW cases between 2010-2011
	Year 2008	Year 2009	Year 2010	Year 2011	Grand Total	
<b>Abduction/Kidnapping</b>	1,784	1,987	2236	2089	8096	-6.57%
<b>Murder</b>	1,422	1,384	1436	1575	5817	9.68%
<b>Domestic Violence</b>	281	608	486	610	1985	25.51%
<b>Suicide</b>	599	683	633	758	2673	19.75%
<b>Honor Killing</b>	475	604	557	705	2341	26.57%
<b>Rape/Gang Rape</b>	778	928	928	827	3461	-10.88%
<b>Sexual Assault</b>	172	274	74	110	630	48.65%
<b>Acid Throwing</b>	29	53	32	44	158	37.5%
<b>Burning</b>	61	50	38	29	178	-23.68%
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	1,970	1,977	1580	1792	7319	13.42%
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,571</b>	<b>8,548</b>	<b>8000</b>	<b>8539</b>	<b>32658</b>	<b>6.74%</b>

As seen in the above table Rape/Gang Rape appears as the third most common form of violence against women, and 827 cases were reported. However, though newspapers and TV

channels report incidents almost every day. Rape in particular, is under-reported, the victims and their families preferring to keep the matter hidden because of the shame and disgrace attached to the crime. Here again, the fact that many perpetrators manage to escape punishment must surely embolden others to commit the same crime.

A total of 758 suicide incidents, the fourth most frequent type of VAW, were reported in 2011 as against 633 in the previous year, showing an increase of 19.75%. This translates to 5.5 women committing suicide every day, a huge number considering that only the most desperate women who have lost all hope would resort to taking such an extreme step. It is probable that these women endured long years of violence of one kind or another before they decided to finally end their lives. But extreme poverty, exacerbated by a steep rise in food prices might also have driven some of the 758 women to kill themselves, considering that women are, not uncommonly, left alone to fend for themselves and their children when the men of the family fall ill, die or seek comfort in drugs. There are also links between the increase in poverty and the increase in domestic violence, making these women vulnerable to an increasing amount of abuse.

Honour Killing ranks fifth in order of prevalence, and a number of incidents have been reported from all four provinces, even from the Islamabad Capital Territory, adding up to 705 women killed in the name of 'honour' in the year.

Incidents of Domestic Violence, which is surely the most common form of VAW around the world, numbered 610 cases reported as against 486 in the previous year, showing a massive increase of 25.51%. Domestic Violence appears as the sixth most frequently committed violence after Honour Killing, although if the full extent of the offence were known it should be on top of the list. But of all the different forms of violence that are listed in this report Domestic Violence - together with Rape - is the most concealed and under-reported. It must also be remembered that only the most violent and shocking incidents ever get reported in the media. That 610 cases have surfaced this year may mean that more women are speaking up.

Different surveys have estimated that over 70% women in the country are subjected to violence in the home. Until very recently, it was considered quite 'normal' that men should beat their wives. The HRCP Report for 2011 has recorded 4500 cases. The present Parliament too has shown greater awareness than its predecessors for the need for protective legislation against domestic violence. A Domestic Violence Bill for Islamabad Capital Territory won unanimous support from the Senate and National Assembly when it was moved by women parliamentarians in late 2011.

Sexual assault is at number seven, and 110 cases, compared to only 74 in 2010 were reported, showing an increase of 48.65%, followed by Acid Throwing, a horrendous crime that is, unfortunately, not uncommon in the country. Women who are attacked with acid include, among others, those who have turned down proposals for marriage, or rejected offers of friendship, or have left their husbands. Students and teachers have also been subjected to acid

attacks by religious fanatics who believe that women should not be educated and should stay at home.

Acid throwing has been debated in Parliament and a bill was passed by the two houses of Parliament in 2011. A more comprehensive bill that criminalizes the offence of throwing acid on a person, restricts the sale of acid and provides support to victims was drafted after exhaustive consultations between civil society and reviewed by the National Commission on the Status of Women. It is hoped that this will be adopted at the national level and enacted as a law for the whole country.

The ninth and last form of VAW reported is Burning. It accounts for 29 women who were set on fire, showing an improvement of 23.68% over last year's figures of 38 women who suffered this dreadful violence. This is an encouraging development, though one can only wonder at the number of cases that must go unreported.

A large number of VAW cases, 1792 in all in 2011, are listed under the category of Miscellaneous. This figure too shows an increase of 13.42% over last year's record. The category includes sexual harassment, child marriages, trafficking, attempted rapes, attempted suicides and other forms of violence.

To sum up, a higher number of overall VAW cases were reported in 2011 than in 2010. Trends over the past four years that indicate increase show that the most drastic increase occurred in the number of Sexual Assault cases reported, followed by Acid Throwing, Honour Killing, Domestic Violence, Suicide and Murder, in that order. The incidents listed under the category of Miscellaneous also registered a marked overall increase. Meanwhile, a downward trend was seen in cases of Burning, Rape/Gang Rape and Abduction/Kidnapping, with the most significant decrease being reported in Burning cases.

*Table 2: Number & Percentage of Cases of VAW in Pakistan during 2011*

Category of Crime	Total Number of cases	% of the Total
<b>Abduction/Kidnapping</b>	2089	24.46
<b>Murder</b>	1575	18.44
<b>Domestic Violence</b>	610	7.14
<b>Suicide</b>	758	8.88
<b>Honor Killing</b>	705	8.26
<b>Rape/Gang Rape</b>	827	9.68
<b>Sexual Assault</b>	110	1.29
<b>Acid Throwing</b>	44	0.52
<b>Burning</b>	29	0.34
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	1792	20.99
<b>Total</b>	<b>8539</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 2 presents the different categories of VAW incidents with the number of incidents in each category and as percentage of the total number of cases reported.

**Table 3: Offence wise/Province wise breakdown of major offences reported out of 8539 cases of VAW in Pakistan.**

No.of cases	Nature of crime	Punjab	Sindh	KP	Balochistan	ICT
2089	Abduction/Kidnapping	1846	152	47	17	27
1792	Miscellaneous	1384	273	82	12	41
1575	Murder	897	255	341	48	34
827	Rape/Gang Rape	734	68	07	10	08
758	Suicide	533	117	83	16	09
705	Honor Killing	322	266	30	86	01
610	Domestic Violence	348	137	104	0	21
110	Sexual Assault	64	41	-	-	05
44	Acid Throwing	32	06	-	04	02
29	Burning	28	01	-	-	-

## 2.1: Territorial Distribution of VAW in Pakistan:

According to Table 3, the largest number of VAW cases in all categories were reported from Punjab, which should not be surprising considering that approximately 54% of the population lives in that province; but even if the size of the population is taken into account, the numbers reported for Rape/Gang Rape, Suicide, Acid Throwing, Burning and Miscellaneous crimes appear disproportionately high compared to the other provinces. The category of Rape/Gang Rape, in particular, reflects a shockingly high rate of occurrence, and 734 out of 827 or 88.5% such cases were reported from Punjab.

It is worth noting that apart from being the largest and most prosperous province, Punjab has witnessed rapid urbanization. The rapid growth in population in the country coupled with the rising cost of living is pushing large numbers of people to migrate from the rural areas to the cities in search of a livelihood. Protected by the anonymity of the big cities and subjected to the pressures of finding work, the men can more easily vent their frustrations on their wives and female relatives, as patriarchy as schooled them to do. Meanwhile, the women can be more vulnerable, since they are cut off from their roots and far from family members who might have supported them. This is not to suggest that VAW does not thrive to the same extent in rural areas too where different conditions prevail, but, perhaps, that the macho culture that patriarchy upholds and promotes finds more space to assert itself under conditions of stress and disorder.

As regards Honour Killing, figures show that though women are killed on the pretext of having brought shame on the family or tribe in all parts of the country, Sindh accounted for a disproportionately high number. This form of VAW is known as *karo kari* in Sindh, and it is

accepted as a time honored tradition by the feudal landowners, influential leaders of local tribes and clans and, of course, by the village *maulvi*. Out of a total of 705 incidents of Honour Killing 266 or 37.73% were reported from Sindh.

Similarly, disproportionately high rates for Murder, 21.65% of the total, and for Domestic Violence, 17.04% of the total, were reported from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Unlike Punjab and Sindh, which have a history of feudalism, the culture in KP is derived from tribal traditions, and patriarchy manifests itself through tribal codes and tribal way of life, which, right or wrong tend to be jealously guarded by its male inhabitants.

Balochistan is the largest but least populated of the four provinces, and few cases have been reported from there. This is understandable because the population is dispersed over a large area, and getting information across is a difficult task. Nevertheless, 86 cases of Honour Killing have been recorded, which is significant. Balochistan hosts people of different ethnicities, but the majority of them are Baloch and Pukhtun, both communities having tribal origins. Though many Baloch and Pushtun women have achieved prominence in the country, the majority live cloistered lives and have little chance to gain personal autonomy. The VAW cases reported are undoubtedly only the tip of the iceberg.

A total of 159 cases were reported from Islamabad Capital Territory, with the highest number falling in the Miscellaneous category, 41, followed by Murder, 34, and Abduction/Kidnapping, 27.

## **2.2 Highest Rate of VAW in 15 Districts of Pakistan:**

Data from 15 districts of the country shows that the highest number of overall VAW cases occurred in the Lahore district 754 or 8.83% incidents reported, followed by Faislabad with 667 or 7.81% incidents. These are amongst the most populated cities in the country, though it is interesting that Karachi, which has the highest population, does not figure in the list. Does this suggest that in Karachi, where all kinds of crime is rampant, VAW occurs less frequently? Rawalpindi reported the next highest number of incidents, 459, followed by Sargodha, 381, Multan, 365, Chakwal, 284, Okara, 256, Vehari, 264, Peshawar, 233, Khanewal, 206, Sheikhpura 196, Muzaffargarh, 191, Sahiwal, 170, Lodhran, 164, and Rahimj Yar Khan close behind with 163.

The most striking feature of this data is that 14 out of the 15 districts showing the highest rate of VAW are in Punjab, leaving out only Peshawar, the Capital of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

**Table 4: Top 15 districts of VAW Crime**

Sr. No.	District Names	Abduction/Kidnapping	Acid Throwing	Domestic Violence	Rape/Gang rape	Honour Killing	Murder	Sexual Assault	Suicide	Stove Burning	Miscellaneous	Grand Total
1	Lahore	314	3	19	62	26	127	1	66	2	134	754
2	Faisalabad	273	6	10	110	36	70	1	50	3	108	667
3	Rawalpindi	139	-	64	32	4	78	11	38	7	86	459
4	Sargodha	147	1	23	34	11	35	-	20	1	109	381
5	Multan	85	1	41	34	13	34	1	15	1	140	365
6	Chakwal	88	2	53	14	2	44	18	13	-	50	284
7	Okara	104	1	3	42	19	28	1	15	1	42	256
8	Vehari	52	1	15	30	18	27	5	15	1	70	234
9	Peshawar	25	-	54	2	6	105	-	12	-	29	233
10	Khanewal	43	1	8	31	21	28	1	16	-	57	206
11	Sheikhupura	75	-	3	19	10	45	1	24	-	19	196
12	Muzaffargarh	74	2	8	30	5	17	-	8	-	47	191
13	Sahiwal	42	-	3	17	22	35	1	31	1	18	170
14	Lodhran	31	1	10	28	6	20	1	10	1	56	164
15	Rahim Yar Khan	22	1	5	15	4	14	-	31	-	69	161

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

The categories for which figures have been collected are: Abduction/Kidnapping, Acid Throwing, Domestic Violence, Rape/Gang Rape, Honour Killing, Murder, Sexual assault, Suicide and Stove Burning. These are the major forms of violence that occur in the country and are reported in the media. Forms of violence less frequently encountered are lumped under Miscellaneous, but these are no less serious. They include *vanni* and *swara*, the barbaric custom of giving women or girls to the aggrieved party in compensation for crimes committed by male members of the family, forced marriages, restricting women from marriage in order to keep the property within the family and trafficking. The following ten tables show the data from the districts in more detail, identifying the top ten districts where the different forms of violence occurred in order of frequency during the past four years.

### 2.3.1. Murder:

Murder was made a compoundable crime under the Qisas and Diyat Ordinance promulgated during the Ziaul Haq regime, meaning that it is now treated as a crime against a person and not a crime against the State. (Paradoxically, a relationship between a man and a woman outside marriage was made a crime against the State by the Hudood Ordinance during the same period!) Consequently, a relative, or relatives, of the murder victim have the authority to either forgive the perpetrator or demand monetary compensation. Since the Qisas and Diyat Ordinance was passed, it has become very easy to commit murder and escape punishment. The ready availability of weapons too has led to an increase in violent crimes like Murder in the country.

Women have been reported to have been murdered for the flimsiest of reasons, like not cooking the meal on time or wanting to visit her parental home. In fact the overwhelming number of women who are murdered are killed for not staying within the limits imposed by the patriarchal norms.

The highest number of murders of women, 127 in 2011, were committed in Lahore during the past four years; while for three of the four years since 2008 the second highest number were committed in Peshawar. Rawalpindi jumped from sixth position in 2008 and 2010 to third position in 2011 with 78 murders reported from the district. Faisalabad, the industrial hub of Punjab, is a close fourth with 70 murders, followed by Shaikhupura 45, Chakwal 44, Mardan 43, Gujranwala 36, Sahiwal 35 and Sargodha 35. Of the ten districts eight are in Punjab, while two are in KP.

**Table 5: Top 10 Districts for Murder during Year 2008-2011:**

Sr. No.	2008		2009		2010		2011	
	District	No. of cases	District	No. of cases	District	No. of cases	District	No. of cases
1	Lahore	149	Lahore	96	Lahore	127	Lahore	127
2	Peshawar	87	Faisalabad	91	Peshawar	87	Peshawar	105
3	Karachi	64	Peshawar	72	Faisalabad	82	Rawalpindi	78
4	Faisalabad	61	Rawalpindi	53	Mardan	58	Faisalabad	70
5	Gujranwala	48	Larkana	52	Karachi	58	Sheikhupura	45
6	Rawalpindi	46	Sargodha	49	Rawalpindi	52	Chakwal	44
7	Sheikhupura	46	Gujranwala	49	Sheikhupura	46	Mardan	43
8	Kasur	39	Sukkar	46	Kasur	42	Gujranwal	36
9	Sahiwal	37	Islamabad	39	Gujranwala	38	Sahiwal	35
10	Quetta	35	Jacobabad	38	Sargodha	36	Sargodha	35

### 2.3.2. 'Honour' Killing

The barbaric practice of killing women (and men) on mere suspicion that they have violated family or tribal honour by associating with men, or have married someone the family does not approve of, has persisted to the present times, and is often patronized by influential feudal landowners and politicians. And it is not as if nothing can be done about it. In Sindh, where Honour Killing is known as *karo kari*, an Anti Karo-Kari Cell established as a pilot project succeeded in training police, raising public awareness and supporting women charged with this "crime". The project has now been extended to include prevention from all forms of VAW. However, as a project it remains difficult to ensure sustainability and longevity of these measures and trainings upon conclusion of the project life.

The data collected for Honour Killings from 2008 to 2011 mentions the districts of Sindh 28 times over the four years, indicating that this form of violence is committed with the greatest frequency in that province. Districts from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan where killing in the name of honour is known to be an accepted tribal practice, are not included in this data, but this does not mean that Honour Killings did not take place in these two provinces. It only means that they were not concentrated in any particular district. In fact, 30 cases were reported from KP and 86 cases from Balochistan in 2011.

Local *jirgas* and *panchayats* (illegal local tribal units composed of influential male members from the community who function for the purposes of dispute resolution) continue to play a major role in perpetuating Honour Killing and other customary anti-women practices. If these councils had served as informal dispute resolution bodies and not extended their role to pass judgments and hand down punishments they may have played a useful role in society at some time, but as matters stand they are responsible for some of the worst crimes perpetrated against women. In a recent case in Haripur on 7<sup>th</sup> June, 2011, a woman was paraded naked in the street as punishment at the behest of the local *jirga* for a misdemeanor allegedly committed by her sons who had escaped.

Parallel systems, such as *jirgas* and *panchayats* were declared illegal by the Sindh High Court in 2004, but horrendous incidents about girls being handed over as compensation, or being sentenced to death are frequently reported by the Press. The NCSW lodged a petition in the Supreme Court of Pakistan in 2011 asking that persons engaged in such extra legal activities should be punished. The petition pointed out:

*That such illegal practices are being carried out in various parts of the country with utmost impunity violating the state laws and fundamental rights of its citizens. That such violation has seriously jeopardized the state position with regard to international treaties to which the Government of Pakistan is a signatory. Further that this prevalent illegal system has completely undermined the state machinery of law and justice challenging the writ of the state and depriving the citizens, particularly the vulnerable segments of society of a fair trial and justice.*

**Table 6: Top 10 Districts of ‘Honour’killing during year 2008-2011:**

Sr. No	2008		2009		2010		2011	
	District	No. of cases	District	No. of cases	District	No. of cases	District	No. of cases
1	Ghotki	36	Jacobabad	36	Jacobabad	42	Naseerabad	39
2	Naseerabad	34	Sukkar	32	Ghotki	37	Faisalabad	36
3	Lahore	34	Larkana	31	Larkana	33	Jacobabad	34
4	Larkana	32	Faisalabad	26	Faisalabad	22	Kashmore	31
5	Jaccoabad	32	Ghotki	24	Kashmore	21	Khairpur Mirs	23
6	Khairpur Mirs	31	Lahore	23	Lahore	19	Larkana	22
7	Sukkur	26	Mirpur Khas	22	Khairpur Mirs	19	Sahiwal	22
8	Nausheroferoz	24	Karachi	21	Sargodha	18	Khanewal	21
9	Faisalabad	23	Nausheroferoz	20	Sahiwal	17	Sukkur	21
10	Karachi	22	Jhang	17	Shikarpur	17	Ghotki	21

### 2.3.3. Abduction/Kidnapping:

Statistics show that Abduction/Kidnapping has remained the single most frequently committed form of VAW in Pakistan for the last four years, and this year too 24.46% of all VAW incidents were reported in this category. The crime of Abduction/Kidnapping is shown to have been committed with the highest frequency in Punjab, with Lahore and Faisalabad on top of the list, and, the data shows that districts from Punjab have been named 35 out of 40 times over the past four years as areas where women were kidnapped or abducted. And all top 10 districts identified in 2011 happen to be from Punjab. Incidents reported from just these 10 districts add up to 1351 cases out of a total of 2089 reported from all over the country, or 64%, more than half. A total 152 cases were reported from Sindh, 47 from KP and 17 from Balochistan. Islamabad Capital Territory, which is heavily policed, reported a surprisingly high number, 27, considering the size of its population.

Crimes like Abduction/Kidnapping and Honour Killing, more than any other type of violence reflect the patriarchal obsession of families, spouses and society with wanting to control women’s bodies and sexuality. Women are abducted if overtures of friendship or proposals for marriage are rejected, or if they exercise their right to terminate a marriage, or even to ‘punish’ someone in her family who has offended or committed a crime against the abductor.

**Table 7: Top 10 Districts of Abduction/Kidnapping during year 2008-2011:**

Sr. No.	2008		2009		2010		2011	
	District	No. of cases	District	No. of cases	District	No. of cases	District	No. of cases
1	Lahore	397	Lahore	372	Lahore	521	Lahore	314
2	Rawalpindi	218	Faisalabad	265	Faisalabad	343	Faisalabad	273
3	Faisalabad	171	Rawalpindi	169	Sargodha	146	Sargodha	147
4	Sheikhupura	118	Sargodha	140	Sheikhupura	132	Rawalpindi	139
5	Multan	82	Sheikhupura	88	Rawalpindi	114	Okara	104
6	Islamabad	79	Kasur	80	Kasur	75	Chakwal	88
7	Kasur	61	Multan	64	Okara	69	Multan	85
8	Sahiwal	51	Peshawar	56	Sialkot	54	Sheikhupura	75
9	Gujranwala	26	Islamabad	52	Multan	50	Muzaffargarh	74
10	Peshawar	14	Jacobabad	41	Sahiwal	30	Vehari	52

#### 2.3.4. Suicide:

Only the most utter hopelessness and extreme desperation can provoke a woman to take her own life. The 10 top districts for Suicide were again all found to be from Punjab in 2011. The highest numbers of incidents, 66, were reported from Lahore. In fact, Lahore has been at the top of the list for three out of the four years since 2008. Faisalabad, from where the third highest number of incidents of Suicide had been reported in the three previous years, assumed second position with 50 cases; and Rawalpindi suddenly moving up from ninth to third position recorded 38 incidents. Three of the 10 top districts are in South Punjab.

Women who commit suicide have probably endured insufferable violence from which they do not see any escape. Desperate poverty and the inability to provide for one's children have also driven women (and men) to kill themselves and end the suffering. But other situations too can lead to acute depression and suicide. Fakhra Younus, who was disfigured by acid thrown on her by her rich and influential husband in 2000, killed herself recently when after waiting patiently for over 11 years she lost all hope of obtaining justice from the courts. Her husband had himself declared innocent by threatening witnesses into silence.

**Table 8: Top 10 Districts of Suicide during year 2008-2011:**

Sr. No	2008		2009		2010		2011	
	District	No. of cases	District	No. of cases	District	No. of cases	District	No. of cases
1	Lahore	67	Gujranwala	76	Lahore	76	Lahore	66
2	Sahiwal	37	Lahore	65	Peshawar	54	Faisalabad	50
3	Faisalabad	36	Faisalabad	32	Faisalabad	41	Rawalpindi	38
4	Gujranwala	35	Sargodha	30	Khairpur Mirs	40	Sahiwal	31
5	Sheikhupura	34	Sheikhupura	26	Chakwal	40	Rahim Yar Khan	31
6	Karachi	19	Sukkar	25	Sahiwal	33	Gujranwala	25
7	Peshawar	18	Larkana	21	Dadu	23	Sheikhupura	24
8	Kasur	15	Toba tek singh	18	Gujranwala	22	Sargodha	20
9	Rawalpindi	14	Jacobabad	14	Rawalpindi	21	Khanewal	16
10	Multan	10	Kasur	10	Naushero Feroze	21	Multan	15

### 2.3.5. Rape/Gang Rape:

The table shows that for the past three years all top 10 districts for Rape and Gang Rape have been from Punjab, with Faisalabad followed by Lahore heading the list. In fact, in the last four years Faisalabad and Lahore have been the two worst places for this category of VAW. But while a total of 463 incidents were reported from Faisalabad since 2008, the similar figure from Lahore is a total of 327 cases, showing that more rapes and gang rapes occurred in Faisalabad than in any other district. At least 3 of the districts are in South Punjab.

The reason why Faisalabad should hold this unenviable position may be that it is a sprawling industrial city, which attracts people from nearby rural areas who come in large numbers to seek work. Once in the big city, away from the eyes of elders and the community, and exposed to a culture of consumerism that commodifies and objectifies women's bodies, as the free market does, crimes like rape and gang rape are more likely to be committed - especially if people know that the police is inclined to treat violence against women with less seriousness, and after committing the crime they can disappear in the crowd and escape punishment, or run back to the village.

Sadly, even cases concerning the heinous crime of rape can drag on for years in the courts of law, while perpetrators roam free on bail and threaten the victim and her family, forcing them to drop charges or accept monetary compensation. People are encouraged to commit the crime because they know that it will not be difficult to escape punishment. Sonia Naz, who was raped by three policemen in 2005, is still waiting for justice. She continues to face threats from the criminals who are not only out on bail, but are leading normal lives.

Interestingly, while the market economy mainly views women as sex objects and women's bodies as a saleable commodity that must be displayed, religious extremists also see them as sex objects but want them to be hidden away! The obsession with the female body and the tendency to objectify women and not see them as persons in their own right is shared at both ends of the spectrum!

**Table 9: Top 10 Districts of Rape/Gang-rape during year 2008-2011:**

Sr. No.	2008		2009		2010		2011	
	District	No. of cases	District	No. of cases	District	No. of cases	District	No. of cases
1	Faisalabad	102	Faisalabad	151	Lahore	110	Faisalabad	110
2	Lahore	82	Lahore	73	Faisalabad	100	Lahore	62
3	Sheikhupura	62	Sheikhupura	46	Sheikhupura	51	Kasur	43
4	Multan	46	Multan	41	Sargodha	49	Okara	42
5	Karachi	43	Kasur	41	Kasur	38	Sargodha	34
6	Kasur	35	Sargodha	40	Okara	35	Multan	34
7	Jhang	28	Gujranwala	36	Rawalpindi	24	Rawalpindi	32
8	Vehari	28	Vehari	31	Nankana sahib	24	Khanewal	31
9	Okara	23	Jhang	27	Sialkot	23	Vehari	30
10	Khanewal	18	Okara	26	Gujranwala	23	Muzaffargarh	30

### 2.3.6. Acid throwing:

Although it is difficult to judge Acid Throwing must surely be the worst type of violence that women are subjected to. The acid eats into the flesh and bone causing severe pain and disfigurement. It is a lifelong affliction which continues to torment the victim as long as she lives. Acid is thrown on women, usually on their faces, for refusing a proposal for marriage or rejecting advances. There was also an incident reported from Quetta in which religious extremists threw acid on women teachers. Those who commit this violence must surely be motivated by the most perverted of male egos.

After showing a reduction in the number of incidents reported from the whole country in 2010, an increase of 37.5 was registered this year. A total of 44 incidents were reported in 2011 compared to 32 in 2010. The top 10 districts also reflect this picture with a total of 18 incidents in the previous year and 31 this year. The highest number of incidents occurred in Faisalabad, 6; 4 each in Sialkot and Karachi, 3 each in Lahore and Gujranwala; 2 each in Muzaffargarh, Chakwal and Islamabad, and 1 in Sargodha.

This brutal form of violence has finally been given the attention it deserved by policy makers and a law on Acid Crimes has finally been passed in 2011.

**Table 10: Top 10 Districts of Acid Throwing during year 2008-2011:**

Sr. No.	2008		2009		2010		2011	
	District	No. of cases	District	No. of cases	District	No. of cases	District	No. of cases
1	Multan	6	Faisalabad	10	Faisalabad	3	Faisalabad	6
2	Lahore	4	Multan	7	Toba tek singh	3	Sialkot	4
3	Rawalpindi	3	Rawalpindi	3	Jehlum	2	Karachi	4
4	Islamabad	2	Vehari	2	Rahim yar khan	2	Quetta	4
5	Bhawalpur	2	Lahore	2	Karachi	2	Lahore	3
6	Karachi	1	Gujranwala	1	Lahore	2	Gujranwala	3
7	Faisalabad	1	Sheikhupura	1	Chakwal	1	Muzaffargarh	2
8	Sheikhupura	1	Jacobabad	1	Sargodha	1	Chakwal	2
9	Kasur	1	Toba tek singh	1	Gujranwala	1	Islamabad	2
10	Gujranwala	1	Islamabad	1	Sialkot	1	Sargodha	1

### 2.3.7. Stove burning:

A positive trend has been witnessed for incidents of stove burning in the country reflecting a consistent decrease over the four years since 2008. Figures from the top 10 districts for this crime show that Rawalpindi heads the list with 7 cases reported, Faisalabad 3, Kasur, Lahore, Attock and Jehlum with 2 each, and Sargodha, Hafisabad, Multan and Gujranwala with 1 each. A sharp reduction is also seen in the total number of incidents reported from the top ten districts, 22 in 2011 as compared to 47 in the previous year.

**Table 11: Top 10 Districts of Stove burning during year 2008-2011:**

Sr. No.	2008		2009		2010		2011	
	District	No. of cases	District	No. of cases	District	No. of cases	District	No. of cases
1	Lahore	9	Rawalpindi	9	Rawalpindi	16	Rawalpindi	7
2	Rawalpindi	6	Gujranwala	3	Chakwal	9	Faisalabad	3
3	Quetta	6	Multan	3	Faisalabad	5	Kasur	2
4	Karachi	3	Chawkal	3	Lahore	3	Lahore	2
5	Gujranwala	2	Lahore	2	Nankana sahib	3	Attock	2
6	Multan	2	Faisalabad	2	Kasur	3	Jehlum	2
7	Peshawar	2	Sargodha	2	Jehlum	2	Sargodha	1
8	Faisalabad	1	Islamabad	2	Sargodha	2	Hafizabad	1
9	Sheikupura	1	Jacobabad	1	Hafizabad	2	Multan	1
10	Islamabad	1	Peshawar	1	Multan	2	Gujranwala	1

### **2.3.8. Domestic Violence:**

Table 12 presents the figures obtained from the top 10 districts for this offence. The highest number of DV incidents occurred in Rawalpindi from where as many as 64 cases were reported; followed by 54 in Peshawar, 53 in Chakwal and 41 in Multan. Attock reported 25 incidents, Sargodha 23, Islamabad with its miniscule population, reported 21 incidents, Lahore 19, Ghotki 19 and Jehlum 16. Six of the districts in the top 10 are in Punjab, 2 in KP and 1 in Sindh.

Figures for Domestic Violence show that there has been an increase of 25.51% of DV cases reported from all over the country. This may indicate an increased awareness in society that is encouraging women not to accept violence in the home as part of a woman's burden placed on her shoulders by nature itself, but to speak up and demand justice. Women activists have been raising the issue for at least 30 years, and newspapers have been reporting such crimes, but when visual images of battered victims also began to be flashed on the TV screen, the issue assumed greater importance. The higher figures may also be an indication that more women are asserting themselves and rebelling against restrictions placed on them, which is leading to an increase in violence.

Whatever be the case, domestic violence remains a sensitive subject in most societies. Violence in the home is a common problem that transcends cultural, class and educational differences, and laws against DV have had to face considerable resistance before they could be passed. There was, therefore, much celebration when a Domestic Violence Bill moved by a private member was passed unanimously in the National Assembly of Pakistan in 2009, but this, unfortunately, was allowed to lapse because it was not endorsed by the Senate within the specified time period. Following the passage of the 18th Constitutional Amendment and

devolution the Bill will now have to be passed by the provincial legislatures in the four provinces. An improved version for ICT has already been approved by the Senate and will become law as soon as it is endorsed in the National Assembly.

It is worth noting that the religious lobby has seldom protested when violence is committed against women, and they are particularly incensed when laws against domestic violence are contemplated. When the DVB was passed in the National Assembly in 2009 the Council of Islamic Ideology voiced its serious concern that the Bill might undermine the rights of the family!

**Table 12: Top 10 Districts of Domestic Violence during year 2008-2011:**

Sr. No.	2008		2009		2010		2011	
	District	No. of cases	District	No. of cases	District	No. of cases	District	No. of cases
1	Peshawar	39	Peshawar	110	Peshawar	61	Rawalpindi	64
2	Rawalpindi	34	Sargodha	39	Lahore	28	Peshawar	54
3	Quetta	18	Lahore	30	Faisalabad	25	Chakwal	53
4	Lahore	11	Multan	29	Rawalpindi	25	Multan	41
5	Islamabad	7	Rawalpindi	24	Sargodha	21	Attock	25
6	Faisalabad	3	Jacobabad	23	Sukkur	17	Sargodha	23
7	Gujranwala	3	Sukkur	21	Multan	16	Islamabad	21
8	Karachi	3	Faisalabad	18	Chakwal	14	Lahore	19
9	Kasur	2	Islamabad	18	Dadu	14	Ghotki	19
10	Sahiwal	2	Gujranwala	9	Attock	13	Jehlum	16

### 2.3.9. Sexual Assault:

Sexual Assault accounts for 1.29% of the VAW cases reported in the year from the country. Data from the top 10 districts shows that the highest number of incidents, 18, were reported from Chakwal, followed by Rawalpindi with 11, Jehlum, 7, Ghotki, 6, Islamabad, 5, Attock, 4, and Toba Tek Singh, Karachi and Jacobabad 3 each. Four of the top 10 districts are in Punjab, four in Sindh and one in KP.

**Table 13: Top 10 Districts of Sexual Assault during year 2008-2011**

Sr. No.	2008		2009		2010		2011	
	District	No. of cases	District	No. of cases	District	No. of cases	District	No. of cases
1	Faisalabad	20	Faisalabad	37	Sheikhupura	22	Chakwal	18
2	Rawalpindi	15	Sargodha	32	Okara	10	Rawalpindi	11
3	Lahore	14	Lahore	23	Faisalabad	8	Jehlum	7
4	Sheikhupura	11	Kasur	14	Rawalpindi	8	Ghotki	6
5	Islamabad	8	Vehari	12	Lahore	7	Islamabad	5
6	Kasur	6	Sheikhupura	11	Toba tek singh	6	Sukkur	5
7	Multan	5	Multan	8	Sanghar	6	Attock	4
8	Peshawar	3	Gujranwala	7	Chakwal	5	Toba Tek Singh	3
9	Sahiwal	2	Toba tek singh	5	Sialkot	4	Karachi	3
10	Karachi	2	Larkana	2	Attock	3	Jacobabad	3

### **2.3.10. Miscellaneous:**

The Miscellaneous category includes *vanni*, *swara*, custodial violence, torture, trafficking, child marriages, incest, sexual harassment and threat of violence. Attempted honour killings, attempts to murder or rape and failed attempts to commit suicide are also listed in this category. A considerable proportion of all VAW cases, i.e. 20.99%, fall in the category of Miscellaneous, accounting for 1792 cases out of a total of 8539 incidents reported from the country in the year.

Data for the top 10 districts shows Multan heading the list from where 140 incidents were reported with the greatest frequency. A total of 134 cases were reported from Lahore, 109 from Sargodha, 108 from Faisalabad, 86 from Rawalpindi, 70 from Vehari, 69 from Rahim Yar Khan, 57 from Khanewal, 56 from Lodhran and 50 from Chakwal. One half of the top 10 districts are in South Punjab. There is now considerable public awareness about the cruel customary practice of giving girls and women as compensation for murder committed by male members of the family, known as *vanni* and *swara*. Newspapers have reported several cases where the police or local community members intervened, the offenders were arrested and the girls rescued. It is possible that 13.42% more such offences reported this year indicate that these customs are now being resisted and challenged.

Parliament too has played a positive role in this regard, although some of the members belong to feudal families that have traditionally upheld this custom, and even handed out decisions where girls were given as compensation. The Anti Women Practices Bill, moved by Donya Aziz, a member of the Women's Parliamentary Caucus, was unanimously passed in the two Houses. The Bill has in effect criminalized four anti-women practices, namely: giving girls and women as compensation; forced marriages; denying inheritance to women;

and marrying girls to the Quran in order to keep the property within the family. The credit for this positive change in the attitude of the legislators must be given to the present Government and the path breaking role played by the Women's Parliamentary Caucus.

The barbaric custom has also been challenged in the Supreme Court of Pakistan, and it is hoped that a favorable judgment will enable police and courts to stamp out violations and put an end to the practice.

**Table 14: Top Districts of Miscellaneous during Year 2008-2011:**

Sr. No.	2008		2009		2010		2011	
	District	No. of cases	District	No. of cases	District	No. of cases	District	No. of cases
1	Rawalpindi	35	Lahore	224	Lahore	196	Multan	140
2	Lahore	21	Sargodha	125	Faisalabad	120	Lahore	134
3	Islamabad	17	Faisalabad	110	Sargodha	116	Sargodha	109
4	Quetta	16	Sukkur	78	Multan	66	Faisalabad	108
5	Gujranwala	9	Gujranwala	65	Toba Tek singh	53	Rawalpindi	86
6	Faisalabad	8	Rawalpindi	58	Khair pur Mirs	48	Vehari	70
7	Peshawar	6	Peshawar	56	Sialkot	45	Rahim Yar Khan	69
8	Multan	6	Larkana	56	Okara	41	Khanewal	57
9	Sheikhupura	5	Vehari	51	Sheikhupura	41	Lodhran	56
10	Kasur	3	Multan	51	Gujranwala	39	Chakwal	50

## 2.4. FIR Status of VAW cases:

Table 15 shows the comparative status of FIRs registered in 2011 in the four provinces. FIRs were registered for 78.99% of the total number of cases reported, while 10.67% cases were not registered and there is no information regarding the remaining 10.34%. The table below shows that of the 6188 cases reported from Punjab, FIRs were filed for more than three quarters of the cases reported; for all 193 cases from Balochistan; and for all but 17 of the 148 cases from ICT. However, no FIR was registered for almost one third, i.e. for 199 reported cases out of 694 in KP. And Sindh was in the worst position, with almost half, i.e. 680 cases out of 1316 left unregistered. This may indicate that a large number of cases were taken to local *jirgas* and *panchayats* instead of to the courts of law in Sindh.

**Table 15: Province-wise breakdown of Number of FIR s registered in year 2011**

FIR Status	No. of FIR registered province wise					Total	% of the total
	Punjab	Sindh	KP	Baluchistan	ICT		
Registered	5290	636	495	193	131	6745	78.99
Not Registered	193	605	100	-	13	911	10.67
No. Information	705	75	99	-	4	883	10.34
<b>Total</b>	<b>6188</b>	<b>1316</b>	<b>694</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>8539</b>	<b>100</b>

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

Table 16 shows that a total of 9288 women were victims or survivors of VAW in the 8539 cases reported. The majority, 42.78%, were married and almost the same number, 39.60%, were unmarried. Only 1.49% of them were widows and 0.97 of them were divorced. No

information was available about 1409 women i.e. 15.17%. Married and unmarried women were seen to be the most vulnerable, while a considerably smaller number of divorced women and widows fell victim to VAW. These figures clearly suggest that perpetrators of VAW are generally husbands and in-laws in the case of married women; or brothers, fathers, male relatives and men who seek to force or control women against their will, in the case of unmarried women.

**Table 16: Marital Status of Victims/Survivors in VAW Cases in Pakistan 2011:**

Marital Status	Province wise break down of marital status of VAW survivors/Victims					Total	% of the total
	Punjab	Sindh	KPK	Baluchistan	ICT		
Married	2739	655	455	58	66	3973	42.78%
Un married	2990	428	173	44	43	3678	39.60%
Widow	124	3	-	-	11	138	1.49%
Divorced	87	1	-	-	2	90	0.97%
No. Information	799	376	117	91	26	1409	15.17%
<b>Total</b>						<b>9288</b>	<b>100%</b>

## 2.6. Age-Group of VAW Victims:

Information about the ages of victims/survivors not easy to obtain, and out of 9288 women or girls there is no information about 6362 or 68.50%. Of the remaining 2926 where information was available, the majority, 1387, comprises children of up to 18 years. This could be because in the case of children the age of the victim has a direct bearing on determining the severity of the violence and forms an important part of the record, whereas in the case of adults, the age of is not considered as important. A total of 1037 victim/survivors were between 19 to 36 years old; while the remaining 502 were 37 and above. From the limited information available it can be seen that it is usually younger women, married and unmarried, who become the most likely targets for perpetrators of violence.

**Table 17: Age Breakdown of Victims/Survivors in VAW Cases in Pakistan 2011**

Age group	Ages of VAW Survivors/Victim Mentioned					Total	% of the total	
				Baluchistan				
0-18years	953	302	109	7	16	1387	14.93%	
19-36 years	512	395	98	2	30	1037	11.16%	
37 and above	162	299	23	-	18	502	5.40%	
No. Information	5112	467	515	184	84	6362	68.50%	
						<b>Total</b>	<b>9288</b>	<b>100%</b>



## **Section Three:**

### **Overview of VAW Incidents in Punjab:**

Area-wise Punjab, is the second largest province of the country after Balochistan, but it hosts 56% of the population. Its land mass is mainly agricultural with a few land-owning families dominating the rural areas; however, there are also rapidly expanding industrial centers. Like the rest of Pakistan the area encompassing Punjab has an ancient history, remains of which still survive in the ruins of Taxila, the centuries old Buddhist centre of the Gandhara civilization, and Harappa, an important town dating back to the Indus Valley civilization in 4000 BC. Throughout history tribes from the North have been attracted by the fertile plains of the Punjab and have come and settled here.

Punjab has one of the most efficient irrigation systems in the world and produces most of the country's food. Punjab is the most developed of the provinces, has the highest rate of literacy, and generally speaking its population is economically better off than in the rest of the country. It is also the most urbanized and industrialized, with constant rural to urban migration. It has a high rate of literacy compared to the other provinces and is the most developed of the provinces. Alongside this, the total number of incidents reported from the Punjab is disproportionately high compared to the size of its population. Its population, 91.37 million, is slightly more than half the total population of the country, which is approximately 180 million.

The 6188 incidents reported from Punjab account for 72.46% of the total 8539 from the whole country, and are markedly higher than the sum total of the cases from the three other provinces together, i.e. 2351 or 29.53%. The reasons for such an illogically high number of VAW cases being reported from Punjab can only be guessed at. There are two possibilities. Firstly the incidence of violence could be reported in Punjab more than in other provinces. It is probable that in comparison to the other provinces the media has greater accessibility to information in Punjab. It may also be that there is more public awareness in the province, and people themselves approach the media with the hope of obtaining justice, or that better records are maintained.

Another possibility is that it could be that the incidence of violence are in fact much higher than in the other provinces, following the legacy of the old feudal and militaristic traditions that this land was famous for, when men were expected to be 'manly' and male egos were carefully cultivated.

Where urban centers generally provide jobs they also offer anonymity and greater possibilities to escape punishment, and when these factors are combined with a patriarchal mindset and a macho mindset that seeks to control women's lives and deny them autonomy, violence against women is likely to be more prevalent. It is also in the cities women are also less restricted with regards to mobility, working etc. These women are more likely to

challenge suffocating restrictions and assert their independence, thus inviting the wrath of male family members.

### **3.1. Over all Cases of VAW in Punjab:**

The violence committed with the highest frequency in Punjab was Abduction and Kidnapping, followed by Murder, Rape/Gang Rape, Suicide, Domestic Violence, Honour Killing, Sexual Assault, Acid Throwing and Stove Burning. A total of 1384 cases were reported in the category of Miscellaneous crimes.

**According to available statistics the categories in order of frequency were:**

■ Abduction/Kidnapping	1846 cases
■ Miscellaneous	1384 cases
■ Murder	897 cases
■ Rape/Gang Rape	743 cases
■ Suicide	533 cases
■ Domestic Violence	350 cases
■ Honour Killing	322 cases
■ Sexual Assault	64 cases
■ Stove Burning	28 cases
■ Acid Throwing	32 cases

A total of 6188 incidents of VAW were reported in 2011 compared to the 5492 reported in 2010. As in the previous year, Abduction/Kidnapping remained at the top of the list with 29.83% of the total incidents of VAW recorded, but a marginal decrease was observed in this year compared to the previous year when 1890 women were abducted or kidnapped. Crimes grouped under Miscellaneous were next in order of frequency, with 22.33% incidents reported. Murder with 14.50% of the total recorded incidents was, once again, the third most prevalent form of VAW in Punjab, but a markedly higher number, 897, women were murdered in comparison with the previous year when 758 cases were recorded.

Rape/Gang Rape and Suicide again reflected the same sequence as in the previous year and remained the fourth and fifth most frequently committed VAW, with almost the same rate of occurrence for Rape/Gang Rape - 741 as against 743 incidents – but a huge increase of 109 more incidents of Suicide cases in 2011.

Domestic Violence too registered an increase, 350 cases reported as against 246 last year, and so did Honour Killing of which 89 more incidents were reported in the year under review. For Sexual Assault, the number of cases was almost double that in 2010, 64 in 2011 as against 39. Stove Burning registered a decrease in the number of cases from 33 to 28 in 2011, but Acid Throwing, that most horrendous and cruel crime that can only reflect an acutely

perverted mind, registered a shocking increase, and 32 cases were recorded, as against 20 in the previous year.

To sum up, more VAW cases were reported this year of Murder, Suicide, Domestic Violence, Honour Killing, Sexual Assault, and Acid Throwing; less were reported of Abduction/Kidnapping and Stove Burning; while the numbers for Rape/Gang Rape remained constant.

There can be a number of reasons for why there was an increase in no less than six categories of violence perpetuated on women. It could mean that more women are rebelling against the roles prescribed for them, or that violence in general has increased in society. Weapons are readily available and poor governance and the culture of patronage of criminals and pressure on police by influential people is thriving, allowing perpetrators to escape punishment and encouraging others to commit violence. It can also indicate that more cases are being reported because people have become more aware.

The smaller number of Abduction/Kidnapping and Stove Burning crimes reported can only be a matter of satisfaction. Perhaps the many years of campaigning by human rights activists is finally beginning to show some results.

The break-up of Miscellaneous offences offers valuable information about the forms of violence that women can be subjected to not only in Punjab but in the rest of the country too. A total of 7319 cases have been reported this year in this category, as opposed to 5527 in 2010, reflecting an overall increase of 1792 cases.

**In Punjab in order of frequency these were:**

■ Attempted Suicide	319 cases
■ Torture	210 cases
■ Injury	203 cases
■ Attempt to Murder	159 cases
■ Attempted Rape	148 cases
■ Threat to Life	98 cases
■ Harassment	79 cases
■ Attempt to Kidnap	61 cases
■ Illegal Custody	35 cases
■ Trafficking of Women	24 cases
■ Vanni	24 cases
■ Forced Marriages	12 cases
■ Child Marriages	11 cases
■ Incest	7 cases
■ Attempted Karo Kari	4 cases
■ Watta Satta	1 case

There was an increase compared to last year in the categories of Attempted Suicide, Torture, Injury, Attempt to Murder, Threat to Life, Illegal Custody, *Vanni*, Forced Marriages, and Attempted *Karo Kari* (Honour Killing). Of these the number of Attempted Suicides, Torture cases and Threats to Life have registered the most drastic increase. The number of Harassment, Attempt to Kidnap and Child Marriages incidents remained constant, while fewer incidents of Trafficking of Women, Attempt to Rape, *Vanni*, Incest and *Watta Satta* were reported.

**Table 18:** Number & Percentage of cases of VAW in Punjab during 2011:

Category of crime	Total Number of Cases	% of the Total
Murder	897	14.50%
Honour killing	322	5.20%
Abduction/ Kidnapping	1846	29.83%
Domestic violence	350	5.66%
Suicide	533	8.61%
Rape/ Gang rape	734	11.86%
Sexual assault	64	1.03%
Stove burning	28	0.45%
Acid throwing	32	0.52%
Miscellaneous	1384	22.33%
<b>Break-Up of Miscellaneous</b>		
Attempt to kidnap	61	0.98%
Attempt to murder	159	2.57%
Attempt to suicide	319	5.16%
Attempt to rape	148	2.39%
Attempted Karo kari	4	0.06%
Child marriages	11	0.18%
Forced marriages	12	0.19%
Harassment	79	1.28%
Illegal custody	35	0.57%
Incest	7	0.11%
Injury	203	3.28%
Threat to life	98	1.58%
Torture	210	3.39%
Women trafficking	24	0.39%
Vanni	13	0.21%
Watta satta	1	0.02%
Fraud	--	--
Land encroachment	--	--
<b>Total</b>	<b>6188</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table-19: Number & Percentage of Cases of VAW in Punjab during 2008-2011**

Categories of Crime	Number of Cases of VAW in Punjab during January to December 2008 to January to December 2011					Percentage increase/decrease in VAW cases between 2010-2011
	Year 2008	Year 2009	Year 2010	Year 2011	Grand Total	
<b>Abduction/Kidnapping</b>	1439	1698	1890	1846	6873	-2.33
<b>Murder</b>	695	752	758	897	3102	18.34
<b>Domestic Violence</b>	366	271	246	348	1231	41.46
<b>Suicide</b>	362	448	424	533	1767	25.71
<b>Honor Killing</b>	89	245	233	322	889	38.20
<b>Rape/Gang Rape</b>	608	786	741	734	2869	-0.94
<b>Sexual Assault</b>	120	227	39	64	450	64.10
<b>Acid Throwing</b>	25	42	20	32	119	60
<b>Burning</b>	31	33	33	28	125	-15.15
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	681	1220	1108	1384	4393	24.91
<b>Total</b>	<b>4416</b>	<b>5722</b>	<b>5492</b>	<b>6188</b>	<b>21818</b>	<b>12.67</b>

The above table records the trend of incidents of VAW during the past four years in Punjab. It shows that there has been an overall increase of 12.67% in violence from 2008 to 2011. An exponential increase of 64.10% and 60% is evident in the number of Sexual Assault and Acid Throwing reported, a fairly substantial increase in Domestic Violence and Honour Killing; while Suicide, Miscellaneous crimes and Murder also show upward trends. The incidents of Abduction/Kidnapping and Rape/Gang Rape show a minimal downward trend. A marked decrease in Burning cases is the only bright spot.

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

A glance at the Bi-annual distribution of VAW cases shows that a more or less equal number, 49.04% in the first half of the year and 50.95% cases in the second half were reported in 2011. The same pattern was observed in the previous year.

**Table 20: Bi-annual distribution of VAW Cases in Punjab 2011:**

Bi-Annual	Total
First six months	3035
Second Six months	3153
<b>Total</b>	<b>6188</b>

**Table 21: District-Wise Data on VAW in Punjab in 2011:**

Sr. No	District Name	Abduction/Kidnapping	Acid Throwing	Domestic Violence	Honor Killing	Murder	Rape/ Gang Rape	Sexual Assault	Stove Burning	Suicide	Miscellaneous	Grand total
1	Attock	33	-	25	2	16	10	4	2	9	9	110
2	Bahawalnagar	18	-	3	5	13	9	-	-	5	9	62
3	Bahawalpur	13	-	5	5	10	28	-	1	10	13	85
4	Bhakkar	9	-	5	3	2	5	-	-	4	20	48
5	Chinot	19	1	-	17	19	10	-	-	5	11	82
6	Chakwal	88	2	53	2	44	14	18	-	13	50	284
7	D.G.Khan	19	1	5	3	7	14	-	-	2	22	73
8	Faisalabad	273	6	10	36	70	110	1	3	50	108	667
9	Gujranwala	11	3	3	5	36	12	-	1	25	36	132
10	Gujrat	20	-	-	4	17	3	2	1	11	17	75
11	Hafizabad	6	-	-	3	13	2	-	1	14	13	52
12	Jhang	22	1	5	9	22	17	1	-	4	27	108
13	Jhelum	14	-	16	4	32	7	7	2	8	26	116
14	Kasur	40	-	3	17	33	43	-	2	14	10	162
15	Khanewal	43	1	8	21	28	31	1	-	16	57	206
16	Khushab	7	-	5	6	10	4	2	-	6	21	61
17	Lahore	314	3	19	26	127	62	1	2	66	134	754
18	Layyah	5	-	1	1	2	6	1	-	1	4	21
19	Lodhran	31	1	10	6	20	28	1	1	10	56	164
20	Mandi Bahauddin	1	-	1	3	6	1	-	-	7	3	22
21	Mianwali	2	-	2	4	8	1	-	-	8	8	33
22	Multan	85	1	41	13	34	34	1	1	15	140	365
23	Muzaffargarh	74	2	8	5	17	30	-	-	8	47	191
24	Nankana Sahib	28	-	1	5	9	19	2	-	12	37	113
25	Narowal	1	-	-	-	4	1	-	-	5	1	12
26	Okara	104	1	3	19	28	42	1	1	15	42	256

27	Pakpattan	31	-	-	11	9	21	-	-	9	18	<b>99</b>
28	Rahimyar khan	22	1	5	4	14	15	-	-	31	69	<b>161</b>
29	Rajanpur	10	-	-	2	2	2	-	-	-	7	<b>23</b>
30	Rawalpindi	139	-	64	4	78	32	11	7	38	86	<b>459</b>
31	Sahiwal	42	-	3	22	35	17	1	1	31	18	<b>170</b>
32	Sargodha	147	1	23	11	35	34	-	1	20	109	<b>381</b>
33	Sheikhupura	75	-	3	10	45	19	1	-	24	19	<b>196</b>
34	Sialkot urre	25	4	4	5	13	12	-	-	12	40	<b>115</b>
35	Toba Tke Singh	23	2	1	11	12	9	3	-	10	26	<b>96</b>
36	Vehari	52	1	15	18	27	30	5	1	15	70	<b>234</b>
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1846</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>897</b>	<b>734</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>533</b>	<b>1382</b>	<b>6188</b>

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

The above data from 36 districts of Punjab provides details of the different categories of violence and the frequency with which it occurred in the different districts.

As observed last year, this year too Punjab has proved to be the most dangerous place for women, and the number of cases reported from the province are markedly disproportionate to its size of population. Punjab is the most developed of the provinces, has the highest rate of literacy, and generally speaking its population is economically better off than in the rest of the country. It is also the most urbanized and industrialized, with constant rural to urban migration. Where urban centers generally provide jobs they also offer anonymity and greater possibilities to escape punishment, and when these factors are combined with a patriarchal mindset and a macho mindset that seeks to control women's lives and deny them autonomy, violence against women is likely to be more prevalent. It is also in the cities that women are more likely to challenge suffocating restrictions and assert their independence, thus inviting the wrath of male family members.

Figures obtained from Punjab show that a total of 1846 women were abducted in Punjab, which is only slightly fewer than the previous year when 1890 cases were reported. This adds up to more than 13 women abducted each day! Lahore, the capital city of the province and, ostensibly, with the best policing system, recorded the highest number, 314 cases of Abduction/Rape, followed by 273 in Faisalabad, 147 in Sargodha, 139 in Rawalpindi and 104 in Okara. But a number of cases were also reported from the remaining 31 districts - 88 from Chakwal and 75 from Sargodha. In fact, double figures for Rape/Abduction were recorded from all districts excepting Narowal, from where only one case was reported.

A total of 32 Acid Throwing cases were reported in 2011, 13 more than in the previous year, which considering the permanent suffering it inflicts, is perhaps the most heinous of all crimes. The issue was much debated and condemned during the past few years, but that more

women were targeted this year is indeed tragic. The highest number was reported from Multan (6), Sialkot (4) and Lahore (3). Women members of the National Assembly moved specific legislation against this horrendous form of violence and the Acid Crimes and Control Act was successfully passed towards the end of the year with the unanimous support of the Senators.

Domestic Violence in Punjab too registered a substantial increase – 350 cases compared to 246 in 2010. DV, which is common to all areas of the country and classes of people, is the most hidden and under-reported form of VAW and only extreme cases are ever reported. For the rest, women continue to suffer in silence, or quietly try to seek separation when conditions become unbearable. That more cases were reported could indicate a greater level of awareness in society and support from the media that, in turn, is encouraging more women to refuse to put up with violence at home. This may be particularly true of the cities, from where the most cases were reported. The worst places for Domestic Violence were Rawalpindi (64), Chakwal (53) and Multan (41).

As regards Honour Killing, in all 322 cases were reported from 36 districts of Punjab, again considerably more than in 2010 when the total had added up to 233 incidents. The perception that any slur on a woman's chastity will bring dishonor to the whole family or tribe continues to provoke violence, and women from all walks of life continue to be victimized. The idea of male control over women's sexuality, which is found in many countries and cultures, is perhaps the main pillar that sustains patriarchy. And although the freedom to marry a man of her choice is given to women both in Islam and by the Constitution of the country, women continue to be mowed down mercilessly every day on the pretext of 'family honour'.

In the 36 districts of Punjab, Faisalabad followed by Lahore, with 36 and 26 cases reported respectively, were at the top of the list for Honour Killing, while Sahiwal with 22 cases was third and Khanewal with 21 fourth.

Murder ranks as the second most frequently committed category of VAW in the country, and a total of 897 women were murdered in Punjab in 2011. With murder having become a compoundable crime under the Qisas and Diyat laws it has become easy to escape punishment by coercing into silence or paying compensation to family members of poor and vulnerable victims. The police too have found it convenient to avoid acting against perpetrators and pressurizing the parties to settle out of court. The highest number of women, no less than 127, were murdered in Lahore. Next in order of frequency were: Rawalpindi with 78 cases reported, Faisalabad with 70, Shaikhupura (45) and Chakwal (44).

If Murder was the most frequently committed VAW Rape/Gang Rape was the third, and a huge proportion, 734 or 88.75% incidents out of the total 827 from the whole country were reported from Punjab in the year under review. Faisalabad topped the list for Rape/Gang Rape with 110 cases, followed by Lahore (62), Kasur (43) and Okara (42).

Chakwal again finds mention, this time for Sexual Assault, and the highest number of incidents, 18, were reported from Chakwal, followed by Rawalpindi with 11. And Rawalpindi recorded the most incidents, i.e. 7, of Stove Burning. As regards the categories of violence clubbed under Miscellaneous, Multan recorded the highest number (140), with Lahore (134) and Sargodha and Faisalabad with 109 and 108 cases respectively.

### 3.4. FIR Status of Cases of VAW:

The table shows that FIRs were registered for 5290 or 85.48% cases reported. The record for the first and second halves of the year reflects that slightly more FIRs were registered in the second Bi-Annual. No FIR was registered for 193 or 3.11% incidents; and there was no information about 705 or 11.39% incidents. This means that a total of 898 or 14.72% of the 6188 cases reported from Punjab remained unregistered. Getting an FIR lodged is not an easy exercise, especially in cases concerning women and the poor, and it generally requires a push from some influential person or the media. The police is reluctant to register FIRs because they want to show a low figure for crimes committed in the area under their jurisdiction. The system of measuring performance of police by the number of FIRs registered is highly defective and needs to be urgently reviewed.

*Table 22: FIR Status of cases of VAW in Punjab 2011:*

FIR Status	1 <sup>st</sup> Bi-Annual	2 <sup>nd</sup> Bi-Annual	Total
Registered	2542	2748	5290
Not Registered	103	90	193
No. Information	390	315	705
<b>Total</b>	<b>3035</b>	<b>3135</b>	<b>6188</b>

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

Statistics obtained regarding marital status of VAW victims/survivors reveal that most women, 2990, were unmarried, indicating that they were young women, and almost the same number, i.e. 2793, were married. A drastically smaller number, 124, were widows and 87 were divorced. These figures clearly indicate that the violence inflicted on them is closely associated with the desire to control women's sexuality, and that the violence decreases sharply when women are older.

*Table 23: Marital Status of women suffering VAW in Punjab 2011*

Marital Status	Total
Married	2793
Un married	2990
Widow	124
Divorced	87
No. Information	799
<b>Total</b>	<b>6793</b>

### 3.6. Age Groups of Victims/Survivors of VAW:

Figures for ages of victims/survivors were not easily available except for the under 18 years, who number 953 or 14.02% of the total and constitute the largest group. A total of 512 or 7.53% victims/survivors were between 19 and 36 years old; while 162 or 2.38% were 37 years and above. There was no information about the vast majority of 5112 or 75.25% women out of the 6793 incidents.

**Table 24:** Age Group wise distribution of VAW Victims/Survivors in Punjab 2011:

Age-Group	No. of Victims/Survivors
0-18years	953
19-36 years	512
37 and above	162
No. Information	5112
<b>Total</b>	<b>6793</b>

## Section Four:

### Overview of VAW Incidents in Sindh:

Sindh is the second largest province of the country after Punjab with an estimated population of 40,589,003, according to population census figures. It has an ancient history and culture, as evident in the archeological site of Moenjodaro, which houses the remains of one of the oldest urban cities in the world dating back to 5000 BC.

The economy of Sindh was mainly agricultural until recent times, with huge landholdings owned by traditionally feudal families. The river Indus is the lifeline of Sindh, but the province also has a large coastal area. Hence, its people, since ancient times, were mainly farmers, landless peasants or fisher folk. But a major upheaval took place in 1947 when Pakistan came into being, and millions of refugees, mostly from the urban areas of India poured into the country. The majority chose Sindh as their destination because the coastal city of Karachi was the capital of Pakistan until Islamabad was built. The small, well organized city with a population of little more than 500,000 people grew overnight into an untidy, teeming, bustling metropolis, a centre of trade and industry that today is home to more than 12 million inhabitants. It has a modern port and international airport, and is the largest city of Pakistan. A constant influx of working class people from KP and other areas come here in search of a livelihood, placing its services and resources under severe strain leading to ethnic tensions and conflict.

While cities like Karachi and Hyderabad have become thriving industrial centers, in the rural areas large segments of the population continue to exist in extreme poverty, as became starkly evident during and after the massive floods in 2010 and 2011, when streams of malnourished families were forced to leave their villages and seek shelter in relief camps.

The differences between rural and urban Sindh are perhaps more marked than the differences between rural and urban areas of the other three provinces. Rural Sindh, with its big landlords, exploited peasants and low literacy rate, has a history of cruel cultural practices and violence against women, as well as violence perpetrated by brigands and powerful landowners. But, at the same time, its people have traditionally been dominated by a culture of peace and tolerance propagated by its many *sufi* saints or holy men through their philosophic teachings, aesthetic poetry and melodious music. This has enriched the land culturally and brought solace to its people through the ages.

Urban Sindh has the highest rate of literacy in the country and hosts a substantial middle class. The intermingling of the population from different parts of the country has generated an exchange of ideas and encouraged liberal views. At the same time, crime and ethnic violence fueled by the struggle for land and other resources flourishes in the cities, while migrant workers from the more conservative tribal areas in the north and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa enforce their own code of living in their communities. The economic

disparities and the absence of social justice continue to breed crime in both rural and urban areas of the province. The situation is further complicated by the easy availability of a variety of lethal weapons and pockets of religious extremism, a legacy of the so called *jihad* against the Soviet Union in Afghanistan launched during the Cold War.

As far as women are concerned, as in Punjab, they are challenging stereotypical roles and charting new paths for themselves. Tensions between the old feudal patriarchal values, now often reinforced by religious extremism, and a growing awareness of women's rights perhaps serve to fuel some of the violence reported from that province.

#### **4.1. Over all Cases of VAW in Sindh:**

A total of 1316 cases of VAW were reported from Sindh in 2011, as compared to 1652 reported in the previous year and 1762 in 2009. The figures show a decline in the number of cases reported over the three year period, which is a happy augury.

**Categories of VAW in order of frequency of occurrence are given below, while violence under Miscellaneous is listed separately:**

■ Miscellaneous	273 cases
■ Honour Killing	266 cases
■ Murder	255 cases
■ Abduction/Kidnapping	152 cases
■ Domestic Violence	137 cases
■ Suicide	117 cases
■ Rape/Gang Rape	68 cases
■ Sexual Assault	41 cases
■ Acid Throwing	6 cases
■ Stove Burning	1 case

The two first categories where women were killed, either on the pretext of honour or murdered for some other reason add up to 521 women murdered, or 39.6% of the total cases reported from the country.

Honour Killing, locally known as *karo kari*, is reported to be the most frequently committed violence against women in Sindh (leaving out Miscellaneous crimes). This means that in 2011, out of the total of 705 Honour Killings reported at the national level 266 or 37.73%, more than one third, took place in Sindh. This is a disproportionately high number compared to the size of its population.

Although there is now greater public awareness about *karo kari*, the tradition is still upheld by many influential people and feudal landlords who wield considerable power in areas of Sindh. *Jirgas* headed by community elders or landlords sit in judgment on women (and men),

accuse them of being *kari* and condemn them to death. The police too are often under the influence of the local landlord, especially if he happens to be a Member of Parliament, as many are. But blame cannot all be laid at the door of the landlord, or *vadera*. Relatives, who have imbibed the same patriarchal traditions and values as their rulers too kill (or threaten to kill) their women for ‘family honour’, though the real reason may be more material. There have been cases when women were accused of being *kari* and killed, or forced to flee from their ancestral homes because a husband wanted to grab his wife’s property, or get married again to another woman. In one instance the woman’s brothers opposed her marriage to a man outside the extended family because this would deprive them of her earnings. Such women can never go back home or they will be murdered.

Murder constitutes the second most frequently committed type of VAW in Sindh, numbering 255 or 19.38% of violence incidents reported from that province and 16.19% of the 1575 cases reported nationally. It has become easy to escape punishment after murder was made a compoundable crime under the Qisas and Diyat Laws.

Third in order of occurrence is Abduction/Kidnapping, and 152 or 11.55 % of all violence incidents from Sindh, or 7.29% of the 2089 cases reported from across the country, fall in this category. The victims of this crime are often young women who are abducted and forced to marry men they or their parents have refused.

Domestic Violence is the fourth most reported form of VAW in the province with 137 or 22.45% of the total 610 incidents reported at the national level. These were obviously the most serious cases, and it is certain that the vast majority of ‘less serious’ DV incidents went unreported, as women tend to put up with much anguish and humiliation before they decide to speak up about violence in the home.

Next in line is Suicide with 117 or 15.43% of total 758 suicides reported at the national level. The number of suicides in the country has been rising every year, which is alarming, because it shows that more women each year are reaching the point when they lose all hope and are resorting to the extreme step of taking their own lives. While unemployment and financial difficulties are usually blamed when men commit suicide, women are more likely to kill themselves because of domestic problems, but extreme poverty and the absence of social support too can be the cause.

Rapes and Gang Rapes account for 68 or 8.22% of the total 827 incidents reported from the country; and Sexual Assault 41 or 39.27% of the total 110 cases reported.

Acid Throwing, 6 cases, and Stove Burning, 1 case, make up the remaining reported cases of VAW from Sindh.

**Miscellaneous in order of occurrence:**

■ Vanni/Customary Practices	87 cases
■ Custodial Violence	84 cases
■ Attempted Suicide	43 cases
■ Attempt to Murder	36 cases
■ Threat of Violence	23 cases

In comparison to 2010 when 362 crimes had been reported in the Miscellaneous category, 273 incidents were reported this year, reflecting a substantial decrease. Compared to the 16 categories of crimes reported from Punjab, only 5 categories have been reported from Sindh. Figures show that *vanni*, the vile custom of giving girls as compensation to seek forgiveness for murder or other crimes committed by male relatives, or in exchange for peace, is still common in Sindh. While 13 cases of *vanni* were reported from Punjab, as many as 87 cases were reported from the much smaller province of Sindh, making this the most prevalent of the 5 offences listed. The others in order of frequency are: Custodial Rape, 84 incidents, Attempted Suicide, 43, Attempted Murder, 36, and Threat to Violence, 23.

**Table 25: Number & Percentage of cases of VAW in Sindh during 2011:**

Category of crime	Total Number of Cases	% of the Total
Murder	255	19.38%
Honour killing	266	20.22%
Abduction/ Kidnapping	152	11.55%
Domestic violence	137	10.42%
Suicide	117	8.89%
Rape/ Gang rape	68	5.17%
Sexual assault	41	3.12%
Stove burning	1	0.08%
Acid throwing	6	0.46%
Miscellaneous	273	20.74%
<b>Break-Up of Miscellaneous</b>		
Threat to violence	23	1.75%
Attempt to murder	36	2.74%
Attempt to suicide	43	3.27%
Custodial violence	84	6.38%
Vanni/ Customary practices	87	6.61%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1316</b>	

**Table-26: Number & Percentage of Cases of VAW in Sindh during 2008-2011**

Categories of Crime	Number of Cases of VAW in Sindh during January to December 2008 to January to December 2011					Percentage increase/decrease in VAW cases between 2010-2011
	Year 2008	Year 2009	Year 2010	Year 2011	Grand Total	
<b>Abduction/Kidnapping</b>	172	160	246	152	730	-38.21
<b>Murder</b>	240	288	308	255	1091	-17.21
<b>Domestic Violence</b>	186	134	136	137	593	0.74
<b>Suicide</b>	146	176	140	117	579	-16.43
<b>Honor Killing</b>	244	284	266	266	1060	0
<b>Rape/Gang Rape</b>	139	122	157	68	486	-56.69
<b>Sexual Assault</b>	41	44	34	41	160	20.59
<b>Acid Throwing</b>	02	09	03	06	20	100
<b>Burning</b>	14	10	-	1	25	0
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	196	535	362	273	1366	-24.59
<b>Total</b>	<b>1380</b>	<b>1762</b>	<b>1652</b>	<b>1316</b>	<b>6110</b>	<b>-20.34</b>

Table 26 presents the number and percentage of VAW cases in Sindh from 2008 to 2011. It shows an overall negative trend by 20.34% in the total 6110 incidents recorded in Sindh over four years. However, a positive trend is seen in 5 out of the 10 categories, the most notable reduction having occurred in the number of incidents in Rape and Gang Rape, which declined by 56.69%, followed by Abductions and Kidnapping by 38.21%, Miscellaneous Crimes by 24.59%, Murder by 17.21%, and Suicide by 16.43%. But incidents of Acid Throwing increased by 100%, Sexual Assault by 20.59%, Domestic Violence by 0.74%, while no change was seen in the incidence of Honour Killing and Burning cases.

#### **4.2. Number and Prevalence of VAW by Districts and Offence in Sindh:**

The Bi-Annual data shows that 62.23% cases were registered in the first six months of the year and 37.76% cases in the second half. While the decrease in incidents is cause for satisfaction, why there should be such a difference is not known. If, in fact, incidents of VAW did decrease substantially in the latter half of the year, how and why did that happen? We know that other kinds of violence remained part of the Sindh landscape, and that there was a spate of target killings in Karachi around that period, but conditions in the rest of Sindh remained the same. If indeed the message of women's rights is finding greater acceptability in Sindh can only be known after data for the next year has been obtained and a comparison can be made.

**Table 27: Bi-annual distribution of VAW Cases in Sindh 2011:**

<b>Bi-Annual</b>	<b>Total</b>
First six months	819
Second Six months	497
<b>Total</b>	<b>1316</b>

**Table 28: District-Wise Data on VAW in Sindh 2011:**

<b>Sr. No.</b>	<b>Districts</b>	<b>Abduction / Kidnapping</b>	<b>Acid Throwing</b>	<b>Domestic violence</b>	<b>' Honour' Killing</b>	<b>Murder</b>	<b>Rape / Gang Rape</b>	<b>Sexual Assault</b>	<b>Suicide</b>	<b>Burning</b>	<b>Miscellaneous</b>	<b>Grand Total</b>
1	Badin	5	-	9	2	5	7	1	8	-	5	42
2	Dadu	30	-	12	12	19	8	2	10	-	21	114
3	Ghotki	15	-	19	21	21	7	6	5	-	27	121
4	Hyderabad	3	-	4	6	11	1	-	3	-	3	31
5	Jacobabad	17	-	12	33	20	5	3	7	-	35	132
6	Jamshoro	1	-	5	3	4	1	-	2	-	4	20
7	Karachi	-	4	7	7	28	4	3	7	-	5	65
8	Kashmore	9	-	3	31	21	2	2	4	-	17	89
9	Khairpur Mirs	7	1	13	23	24	9	2	11	-	22	112
10	Larkana	10	-	11	22	27	4	3	12	-	24	113
11	Matyari	-	-	1	1	2	-	-	2	1	1	8
12	Mirpur khas	2	-	4	5	6	-	2	5	-	9	33
13	Naushehro Feroze	8	-	3	9	11	3	1	8	-	12	55
14	Nawabshah	2	-	7	8	10	2	2	4	-	3	38
15	Qambar Ali Khan	5	-	2	14	5	-	-	3	-	6	35
16	Sanghar	5	-	2	7	5	3	3	4	1	6	34
17	Shikarpur	2	-	8	26	9	4	2	4	-	25	81
18	Sukkur	26	-	13	21	20	4	5	5	-	39	133
19	Tando Allah yar	-	-	-	5	1	-	-	2	-	1	9
20	Tando Muhammad Khan	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	2
21	Tharparkar	1	-	-	2	2	2	3	7	-	4	21
22	Thatta	1	-	-	4	3	-	-	-	-	2	10
23	Umerkot	3	-	1	2	1	3	1	3	-	4	18
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>1316</b>

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

Looking at the trends of cases reported over four years from Sindh, figures show a substantial decrease in Rape/Gang Rape and Abduction/Kidnapping cases. There were also fewer incidents of Murder and Suicide reported. The category of Miscellaneous too shows a positive downward trend of 20.34%; while more or less the same number of cases were reported for Domestic Violence and Honour Killing. However, Sexual Assault registered a substantial increase of 20.59%. According to available data, it can be said that the overall trend from Sindh shows that VAW has decreased in the province.

Figures that map incidents from 23 districts of Sindh show that the maximum number of cases were reported from six districts, namely: Sukkar, 133, followed by Jacobabad, 132, Ghotki, 121, Dadu, 114, Larkana, 113, and Kairpur Mir, 112, respectively. A substantial number of incidents, ranging from 89 to 55, also occurred in Kashmore, Shikarpur, Karachi and Naushero Feroze. Only three of the 23 districts, i.e. Tando Muhammad Khan, Matyari and Tando Allah Yar recorded cases in single digits.

It is noteworthy that cases of Honour Killing or *karo kari* have been reported from every single district in the list, which shows that the crime is widespread in Sindh. The highest number of *karo kari* cases, 33 and 31, were reported from Jacobabad and Kashmore. As regards Acid Throwing, 4 out of the 5 cases were reported from Karachi, which, ironically, boasts the highest level of education in the province!

In comparison with 2010 there was a marked decrease in four categories of VAW cases reported from the same districts in 2011. Abduction and Kidnapping cases were down from 246 to 152 cases; Murder from 309 to 255 cases; Rape and Gang Rape from 157 to 68 cases; Suicide from 140 to 117 cases; and Miscellaneous forms of violence from 361 to 275 cases. But three categories registered a small increase. Five Acid Throwing incidents, as against 3 in the previous year; 41 Sexual Assault cases as against 34; and 3 incidents of Burning as against none last year were reported. There was no change in the number of incidents of Domestic Violence (136) and Honour Killing (265) reported in the two years.

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

Compared to the other provinces and ICT Sindh showed the worst record for registering FIRs and prosecuting perpetrators. Of the 1316 cases reported in Sindh FIRs were registered for only 636 or 48.32% cases, while no FIR was registered for 605 or 45.97%; and information was not available for 75 or 5.69 of the incidents reported.

These figures may indicate that a large proportion of cases are being handled out of court, and/or that there is a high level of political interference in the work of the police that is preventing the police from registering FIRs and taking lawful action. The police too are reluctant to register cases because a high number of incidents in their area would reflect badly on their performance.

**Table 29: FIR Status of Victims/Survivors in Sindh Year 2011:**

<b>FIR Status</b>	<b>Total</b>
Registered	636
Not Registered	605
No. Information	75
<b>Total</b>	<b>1316</b>

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

Table 30 shows that, as in the other provinces, women most at risk of suffering violence were the married women. The next vulnerable group identified was unmarried women. The data shows the majority of victims/survivors i.e. 655 or 44.77% were married; 428 or 29.25% were unmarried; while no information was available about 380 or 25.97 % women.

**Table 30: Marital Status of Victims/survivors in Sindh Year 2011:**

<b>Marital Status</b>	<b>Total</b>
Married	655
Un married	428
No. Information	380
<b>Total</b>	<b>1463</b>

#### **4.6. Age Groups of Victims/Survivors of VAW**

As depicted in Table 31 more than one third of the victims and survivors, i.e. 302, were children aged 0 to 18 years. In the previous year too 296 victims/survivors were recorded in this category. This is a shocking finding, which, in addition to the influences of patriarchal values, also indicates the presence of a high degree of depravity and perversion in the perpetrators. It is probable that such behaviour is linked to the marketing of sex and pornography as a consumer item by the market economy model of today. It could also mean that abject poverty, in the absence of any other alternative, is driving more people to marry off their daughters at an early age, thus exposing them to violence. Child marriages is a well known phenomenon in rural Sindh even in normal times, and it is likely that the desperation of displaced families caused by two years of devastating floods pushed many more underage girls into early marriage thus robbing them of their childhood and forcing them to take on roles and responsibilities they were too young to shoulder.

**Table 31:** Age Group wise distribution of VAW Victims/Survivors in Sindh 2011:

<b>Age-Group</b>	<b>Total</b>
0-18years	302
19-36 years	395
37 and above	299
No. Information	467
<b>Total</b>	<b>1463</b>



## **Section Five:**

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

The province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is situated in the north-west of the country bordering Afghanistan. Its rugged terrain includes spectacular mountains and fertile plains. It is inhabited by tribes and sub-tribes, who throughout history have witnessed many invasions from the North. The invaders, including Alexander the Great, entered the subcontinent through the legendary Khyber Pass, which enters Pakistan from Afghanistan, opening into KP and on to Punjab and territories beyond. The capital city Peshawar is one of the oldest inhabited cities of the world. It is situated in the pathway of ancient trade routes stretching from China and Central Asia to Europe.

According to population census figures the estimated population of KP is 23,659,639, which is 13% of the total population of Pakistan 52% of whom are males. Given equal resources and opportunities for health and nutrition women generally tend to outnumber men according to the laws of nature. The fact that the number of women in KP is smaller in proportion to men indicates that women as a group have a higher rate of mortality, and are less well nourished and less well cared for as far as health facilities are concerned. In common with other frontier regions the culture of KP reflects diverse influences, in this case an intermingling of Central Asian and South Asian influences. The society as a whole has strong conservative leanings, and tribal traditions have encouraged men to carry arms and assert their militant prowess, but the movement for the education of both boys and girls, and peace, rather than militancy, launched by Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan (Bacha Khan) in the last century, has had a strong impact on people's way of life. As a result, the women of the province today play an active role in every field, and its universities attract large numbers of young people from the surrounding rural and urban areas.

Inspired by Bacha Khan's tradition, the Awami National Party government in the province is actively pursuing the goal of education for all, but it is having to contend with a formidable challenge posed by religious extremists, who realize that modern education and knowledge will undermine their narrow agenda. Hundreds of girls' schools have been blown up, and continue to be blown up, by these bigoted and misguided militants.

The threat posed by religious extremism to women's rights began to be sharply felt in KP after 2002, when elections held by the Musharraf government brought an alliance of religion based political parties to power, and was most starkly in evidence during the brutal occupation of the beautiful district of Swat during 2007 and 2008 by religious warlords who were inspired by the Afghan Taliban. The election of the Awami National Party in 2008 and the consequent army action against militants brought some relief, but the threat from this worst form of patriarchy still lingers on.

## 5.1. Overall Cases of VAW in KP:

A total of 694 cases of VAW were reported from 29 KP districts in 2011. Seven categories of violence, including the crimes listed under Miscellaneous, are listed below in order of prevalence:

■ Murder	341 cases, or 49%
■ Domestic Violence	104 cases, or 14.99%
■ Suicide	83 cases, or 11.96%
■ Miscellaneous	82 cases, or 11.82%
■ Abduction/Kidnapping	47 cases, or 6.77%
■ Honour Killing	30 cases, or 4.32%
■ Rape/Gang Rape	7 cases, or 1.01%

As in the previous years, Murder remained the most frequently committed form of VAW in KP constituting nearly half, i.e. 49% of the total number of cases recorded in 2011. Statistics show that Murder in Punjab added up to 18.34% cases, in Sindh to 19.38%, in Balochistan to 24.87% and in ICT to 29.57%. The huge percentage of Murder incidents reported from KP is shocking suggesting, among other things, that it is relatively easy to commit murder and get away with it. The culture of carrying weapons as a symbol of manliness is also part of this whole picture, as is the strong emphasis on ‘honour’ and the widely held view supported by tribal norms of women as repositories of male honour.

Domestic violence is reported to be second in order of occurrence, and 104 cases were reported. Considering that DV is probably the least reported of all crimes, and that only the most serious cases come out into the open, this is a very high figure. The third most prevalent form of violence reported is Suicide, and 83 women were reported to have killed themselves in KP during the year. The reasons that led them to take this extreme step can only be conjectured. However, it is likely that the cause of much of their suffering lay in the severe restrictions placed on their personal lives, and their socialization as dependent and helpless individuals who have little control over family matters and events.

Abduction/Kidnapping registered 47 cases, Honour Killing 30 and Rape/Gang Rape 7 cases. The figures for Honour Killing are suspiciously low in view of the high importance given by the prevailing tribal culture to the issue of female ‘chastity’ and its identification with male ‘honour.’ Informal discussions with women have revealed that when women are killed in the name of ‘honour’ the crime is often hushed up and people are reluctant to talk about it.

### Break-up of Miscellaneous:

■ Attempted Murder	43 cases, or 6.20%
■ Attempted Suicide	13 cases, or 1.87%
■ Hurt and Body Injury	13 cases, or 1.87%
■ Vanni/Customary Practices	7 cases, or 1.01%
■ Attempted Kidnapping	4 cases, or 0.58%

Under Miscellaneous the first two categories, i.e. Murder and Suicide, are first and second in order of prevalence in this category, while in Table 33 they rank first and third, thereby confirming that these two types of violence were most prevalent in KP in 2011. The total number of incidents of Hurt and Body Injury was 13, and these must have been serious injuries, since they caught the attention of the media and were reported. There is no information about who caused the injuries, and why, but it can be assumed that it was someone other than family members, or else these cases would have been reported as domestic violence.

**Table 32: Number & Percentage of cases of VAW in KP during 2011:**

Category of crime	Total Number of Cases	% of the Total
Murder	341	49.14%
Honour killing	30	4.32%
Abduction/ Kidnapping	47	6.77%
Domestic violence	104	14.99%
Suicide	83	11.96%
Rape/ Gang rape	7	1.01%
Miscellaneous	82	11.82%
<b>Break-Up of Miscellaneous</b>		
Attempted murder	43	6.20%
Attempted suicide	13	1.87%
Attempted Kidnapping	4	0.58%
Hurt and Body Injury	13	1.87%
Vanni/ Customary practices	7	1.01%
Sexual harassment	-	
Women trafficking	2	0.29%
<b>Total</b>	<b>694</b>	<b>100%</b>

Data compiled from 2008 to 2011 shows an overall negative trend of 6.77% over the four year period. As seen in Table 33, fewer cases of VAW were reported over the first three years, with a slight increase in 2011 when 44 more cases compared to 2010 were recorded. The total number of cases for the year (694) is almost a hundred less than the total cases (799) recorded in 2008. There were no reports of any Acid Throwing or Burning incidents, and 38.96% fewer cases of Abduction/Kidnapping were reported. However, a huge increase of 53.70% is seen in the number of Suicides, and of 40% in the number of Rape and Gang Rape cases. Domestic Violence incidents also showed an upward trend of 16.85%, Miscellaneous crimes of 15.49%, and Murder cases of 3.96% in this year.

**Table-33: Number & Percentage of Cases of VAW in KP during 2008-2011**

Categories of Crime	Number of Cases of VAW in KP during January to December 2008 to January to December 2011					Percentage increase/decrease in VAW cases between 2010-2011
	Year 2008	Year 2009	Year 2010	Year 2011	Grand Total	
<b>Abduction/Kidnapping</b>	42	64	77	47	230	-38.96
<b>Murder</b>	352	266	328	341	1287	3.96
<b>Domestic Violence</b>	259	163	89	104	615	16.85
<b>Suicide</b>	66	43	54	83	246	53.70
<b>Honor Killing</b>	13	14	22	30	79	36.36
<b>Rape/Gang Rape</b>	09	07	05	07	28	40
<b>Sexual Assault</b>	03	-	-	-	03	0
<b>Acid Throwing</b>	-	01	01	-	02	-100
<b>Burning</b>	03	04	03	-	10	-100
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	52	93	71	82	298	15.49
<b>Total</b>	<b>799</b>	<b>655</b>	<b>650</b>	<b>694</b>	<b>2798</b>	<b>6.77</b>

## 5.2. Number of Prevalence of VAW by Districts and offence in KP:

Table 35 shows the data from 29 districts of KP. The highest number of incidents of 233, were reported from Peshawar, the capital city of the province, which is slightly less than the previous year when 245 cases were reported. Apart from the fact that Peshawar is the largest and most populated city of the province, it can be assumed that reporting of cases would also be more thorough, which have been a factor in the high statistic. The category in which the most number of incidents were reported was Murder and the data shows that 105 women were murdered in Peshawar this year, a marked increase from the 87 cases reported from this city in 2010. Mardan continued to be the second worst city for Murder, but fewer cases, 43, as against 58 in the previous year, were reported. Peshawar also recorded the highest number of incidents of Domestic Violence, which ranked as the second most prevalent form of VAW in KP, as 54 of the total 104 cases reported in the category were registered in that city. Of the 83 Domestic Violence cases the most, 19, were reported from Mardan with 12 each from Peshawar and Nowshera. Incidents of Murder were reported from all 29 districts except Torghar.

Table 34 presents the Bi-annual distribution of VAW offences during 2011. The first six months of the year registered a slightly higher number, i.e. 389 or 56.05% of the total 694 VAW cases from KP, as compared to the second half when 305 or 43.94% cases were registered. A similar pattern was observed in 2010.

**Table 34: Bi-annual distribution of VAW Cases in KP 2011:**

Bi-Annual	Total
First six months	389
Second Six months	305
<b>Total</b>	<b>694</b>

**Table 35: District wise data of VAW crimes in KP 2011:**

Sr. NO	District Name	Abduction/ Kidnapping	Acid Throwing	Domestic Violence	Gang Rape	'Honour' Killing	Miscellaneous	Murder	Burning	Suicide	Sexual Assault	Grand Total
1	Abbottabad	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	-	4
2	Bajour Agency (Fata)	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	2	-	5
3	Bannu	1	-	1	-	-	-	11	-	-	-	13
4	Battagram	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	-	1	-	7
5	Buner	-	-	1	-	-	-	8	-	1	-	10
6	Charsadda	-	-	3	1	-	4	27	-	3	-	40
7	Chitral	1	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	7	-	11
8	D.I.Khan	4	-	1	-	1	8	9	-	3	-	26
9	Hangu	1	-	-	-	1	-	3	-	-	-	5
10	Haripur	-	-	1	-	1	2	7	-	4	-	15
11	Karak	1	-	1	-	-	2	4	-	2	-	10
12	Khyber Agency (Fata)	1	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	1	-	6
13	Kohat	-	-	4	-	1	1	12	-	3	-	21
14	Kohistan	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
15	Lakki Marwat	3	-	1	-	1	-	5	-	-	-	10
16	Lower Dir	-	-	1	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	4
17	Malakand p.a	-	-	2	-	1	3	9	-	1	-	16
18	Mansehra	1	-	-	-	3	3	5	-	4	-	16
19	Mardan	4	-	8	2	3	9	43	-	19	-	88
20	Mohammed Agency(Fata)	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
21	Nowshera	1	-	19	2	4	7	30	-	12	-	75
22	Peshawar	25	-	54	2	6	29	105	-	12	-	233
23	Shangla	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1

24	Swabi	1	-	3	-	-	1	15	-	1	-	21
25	Swat	2	-	2	-	2	6	19	-	6	-	37
26	Tank	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2
27	Upper Dir	-	-	1	-	1	1	8	-	-	-	11
28	Torghar	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
29	South Waziristan	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	Grand Total	47	-	104	7	30	82	341	-	83	-	694

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

The form of violence most prevalent in KP was found to be Murder, accounting for almost half, i.e. 49.14%, of the total 694 VAW incidents reported from that province. Even from the national perspective, the 341 murder incidents reported from KP are disproportionately high, amounting to 21.65% of the total 1575 murder cases reported from all over the country, while its share in the population is only 13.14% of the total. The vast majority of Murder incidents, 105, were centered in Peshawar, but 43 murders were also reported from Mardan, 30 from Nowshera and 27 from Charsadda.

While Peshawar, the Capital of KP, is a cosmopolitan city where two languages, Pashto and Hindko are spoken, Mardan, Nowshera and Charsadda have a purely Pashto speaking population, though the culture of Nowshera is diluted by the presence of a large army cantonment. As far as women are concerned, they are considerably more sequestered in Charsadda and Mardan than in Peshawar. The huge number of murders of women in Peshawar can perhaps be attributed to the fact that more than anywhere else in the province, in Peshawar women are stepping out of their homes and challenging traditional norms. As observed earlier, women were murdered in every district of KP except Torghar.

Domestic Violence, of which a total of 184 incidents were reported, earning it second place in order of prevalence, was again largely centered in Peshawar, with 54 cases. Nowshera was next with 19 cases and Mardan was a distant third with 8 cases. But in view of the strong patriarchal culture of KP it is certain that the full extent of this pervasive violence remained unreported.

Suicides, the third most common form of VAW, with 83 incidents, was mainly reported from Mardan, 19, and Nowshera and Pesawar with 12 incidents each.

Offences clubbed together under Miscellaneous comprised the fourth most prevalent category with 82 reported cases. Here too the majority of incidents, 43, related to Attempt to Murder with 13 incidents each of Attempted Suicide and Hurt and Body Injury.

#### 5.4. FIR Status of Cases of VAW:

Table 36 shows that FIRs were registered for slightly more than two thirds of the cases, i.e. 71.32% or 495 cases out of 694, whilst 14.4.% or 100 cases remained unregistered and there was no information about 14.26% or 99 cases. This compares unfavorably with the previous year when 76.15% were reported while 10.92% went unreported.

*Table 36: FIR Status of cases of VAW in KP 2011:*

<b>FIR Status</b>	<b>Total</b>
Registered	495
Not Registered	100
No. Information	99
<b>Total</b>	<b>694</b>

#### 5.5. Marital Status of women suffering VAW:

Information about marital status of victims/survivors of VAW shows that 61.15% women, 455 out of 744, were married; 23.25% or 173 of them were unmarried; and there was no information about 15.59% or 116 women. A minimal improvement can be seen over the previous year when information about for 15.11% women was not available.

*Table 37: Marital Status of women suffering VAW in KP 2011:*

<b>Marital Status</b>	<b>Total</b>
Married	455
Un married	173
No. Information	116
<b>Total</b>	<b>744</b>

#### 5.6. Age Groups of Victims/Survivors of VAW:

As with the other provinces information about ages of victims/survivors was minimal. There was no information about the ages of the vast majority, 69.08% or 514 out of 744 women in the cases reported. But here too, there has been a slight improvement due to the fact that in 2010, information was not available about 71.05% women.

**Table 38: Age Group wise distribution of VAW Victims/Survivors in KP 2011:**

<b>Age-Group</b>	<b>Total</b>
0-18years	109
19-36 years	98
37 and above	23
No. Information	514
<b>Total</b>	<b>744</b>

## **Section Six:**

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

Balochistan, situated in the south-west of the country, is the largest province of Pakistan with a land mass comprising approximately 44% of the country, but which is home to only about 5% of the country's population. This is because large areas are covered by barren mountains and desert and water is scarce, making much of the land uninhabitable. The borders of the province touch Iran in the west and Afghanistan in the north, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in the north-east and Sindh to the east. It has a long coastline that faces the Arabian sea.

According to population census figures the total population of the province is estimated to be 8,775,048. People from a variety of ethnic and racial backgrounds live in Balochistan, of whom the majority, 54.8%, is Baloch, followed by Pashtuns, 29.6%, and smaller communities, such as Sindhis, Hazaras, Punjabis and others.

Balochistan is rich in mineral resources but remains the poorest of the provinces. Its natural gas deposits, which mainly sustain its economy, make it the second major supplier of natural gas after Sindh. Agriculture is mainly carried out by utilizing underground water sources linked through an intricate system of underground water channels. The traditional means of livelihood are animal husbandry, fruit cultivation and fishing. A deep sea port has been constructed by the Government of Pakistan at Gwadar, which is expected to strengthen the economy of the province.

Much of Baloch society is dominated by tribal chieftains who uphold a deeply conservative patriarchal culture. For a number of years the Baloch have been demanding that the Federal Government should hand over control of the deposits of gas and other minerals to the province. Of late this movement has become violent, with attacks on settlers from other provinces and reprisals from the State. The situation has been further complicated by religious extremists who are attacking people of the Hazara tribe who have lived in Balochistan for many centuries. In these volatile conditions human rights are routinely violated, crime is flourishing and ordinary people are finding it difficult to carry on with their normal lives.

Women in the rural areas live a cloistered life and their mobility is strictly controlled, even to the extent of being denied medical help. But in Quetta, the capital of the province, the situation is somewhat different and many women are active in public life. However, Balochistan remains the most conservative of the provinces. Other than the restrictions and violence imposed by tribal and patriarchal traditions women are now having to also contend with the misogynist influences from religious extremism.

## 6.1. Over all Cases of VAW in Balochistan:

The total number of cases reported in the year under review, 193, was more than twice the 79 cases reported in the previous year. This is a high number considering that news about such incidents is often concealed by families, who believe that their name will be disgraced if the event becomes public.

### VAW cases are listed below in order of occurrence:

■ Honour Killing	86 cases, or 44.56%
■ Murder	48 cases, or 24.87%
■ Abduction/Kidnapping	17 cases, or 8.81%
■ Suicide	16 cases, or 8.29%
■ Miscellaneous	12 cases, or 6.23%
■ Rape/Gang Rape	10 cases, or 5.18%
■ Acid Throwing	4 cases, or 2.07%

As in 2010, the highest number of incidents were reported in the category of Honour Killing, 87 cases. In fact Honour Killing incidents added up to 44.56% of the total VAW offences from Balochistan. The barbaric tradition of killing women in cold blood for exercising their Islamic and constitutional right to choose their marriage partner, or even for challenging the restrictions imposed on them and seeking personal freedom, is firmly upheld by Sardars and Nawabs as a revered tribal tradition and intrinsic part of male honour.

Murder, with 48 cases, constituted the second most frequently committed offence and comprises almost one fourth of the total. Abduction/Kidnapping, with 17 reported cases, was the third in order of occurrence, followed by Suicide, 16, and Rape or Gang Rape, 10 incidents reported. The 4 cases of Acid Throwing reported concerned a single incident when religious bigots threw acid on four school teachers to register their opposition to girls' education and disapproval of working women.

These figures are almost certainly just the tip of the iceberg, considering the low status of women in that province and the severe restrictions placed on them by the tribal patriarchal society.

### Break-Up of Miscellaneous

■ Hurt and Injury	9 cases, or 4.60%
■ Threat of Violence	3 cases, or 1.55%

About 16 types of VAW are lumped together under Miscellaneous, but only 12 cases in two categories have been reported from Balochistan, suggesting that most cases remain hidden and never get reported. No case has been reported under Attempt to Murder, Attempted Suicide, Child Marriages, Threat to Life, Attempted Honour Killing, and a host of other

forms of violence, which strengthens the suspicion that only a fraction of VAW cases come to light.

**Table 39: Number & Percentage of cases of VAW in Balochistan during 2011:**

Category of crime	Total Number of Cases	% of the Total
Murder	48	24.87%
Honour killing	86	44.56%
Abduction/ Kidnapping	17	8.81%
Suicide	16	8.29%
Rape/ Gang rape	10	5.18%
Acid throwing	4	2.07%
Miscellaneous	12	6.23%
<b>Break-Up of Miscellaneous</b>		
Hurt & body injury	9	4.66%
Threat to violence	3	1.55%
<b>Total</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>100%</b>

Table 40 shows that the overall trend of VAW over a period of four years from 2008 to 2011 has been negative with five categories of violence registering an upward trend. The sharpest increase was recorded in cases of Abduction/Kidnapping, which increased by 750%, Murder by 220%, and Honour Killing by 139%. But an increase was also witnessed in incidents of Suicides, by 100%, and Rape and Gang Rape, by 66.67%. The number of Miscellaneous offences also went up to 12 as opposed to 2 in the previous year. However, fewer incidents were reported in three categories, namely Domestic Violence, Burning and Acid Throwing. Domestic Violence and Burning decreased by 100% each and Acid Throwing by 66.67%.

The fact that a higher number of incidents were reported in five out of ten categories may also mean that more women are choosing to speak up and seek justice, rather than continue to suffer in silence. It is hoped that the many discussions and debate around the issue of violence against women, support from the media, and the pro-women laws promulgated lately have all combined to bring public awareness to a point where women are more confident to break the silence. The unambiguous commitment from Government and legislators may also have persuaded police to take the issue seriously.

**Table-40: Number & Percentage of Cases of VAW in Balochistan during 2008-2011**

Categories of Crime	Number of Cases of VAW in Balochistan during January to December 2008 to January to December 2011					Percentage increase/decrease in VAW cases between 2010-2011
	Year 2008	Year 2009	Year 2010	Year 2011	Grand Total	
Abduction/Kidnapping	52	13	02	17	84	750
Murder	115	39	15	48	217	220
Domestic Violence	298	22	04	-	324	-100
Suicide	18	10	08	16	52	100
Honor Killing	127	59	36	86	308	139
Rape/Gang Rape	12	04	06	10	32	66.67
Sexual Assault	-	01	-	-	01	0
Acid Throwing	-	-	05	04	09	-20
Burning	12	01	01	-	14	-100
Miscellaneous	133	88	02	12	235	500
<b>Total</b>	<b>767</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>1276</b>	<b>144.3</b>

## 6.2. Number and Prevalence of VAW by Districts and Offence in Balochistan:

The Bi-Annual distribution of VAW cases in Balochistan presented in Table 41 shows that 68.91% or 133 cases were reported in the first six months of the year, compared to 31.08 or 60 cases in the second half. There is a huge imbalance in the record for the two halves of the year, the reasons for which are unknown. Interestingly, a similar pattern had emerged in the previous year.

Table 42 provides the detailed information obtained from 29 districts of Balochistan. It shows that the majority of incidents, 61 or 31.60%, out of the total 193 cases from the province occurred in Naseerabad, followed by 39 cases or 20.20% from the provincial Capital city of Quetta, and 25 cases or 12.95% from Jaffarabad. Significantly, the same three cities were identified as the most dangerous places in Balochistan for women in 2010 too, with Naseerabad reporting 20 incidents, Jaffarabad, 13, and Quetta 11, but compared to this year, the total incidents had numbered only 79.

**Table 41: Bi-annual distribution of VAW Cases in Balochistan 2011:**

<b>Bi-Annual</b>	<b>Total</b>
First six months	133
Second Six months	60
<b>Total</b>	<b>193</b>

**Table 42: District-Wise Data on VAW in Balochistan 2011:**

<b>Sr. No.</b>	<b>District Names</b>	<b>Abduction/ Kidnapping</b>	<b>Acid Throwing</b>	<b>Domestic Violence</b>	<b>Rape/Gang rape</b>	<b>Honour Killing</b>	<b>Murder</b>	<b>Sexual Assault</b>	<b>Suicide</b>	<b>Stove Burning</b>	<b>Miscellaneous</b>	<b>Grand Total</b>
1	Awaran	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	Barkhan	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	3
3	Bolan	-	-	-	-	7	2	-	1	-	-	10
4	Chagi	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
5	Dera Bugti	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
6	Gawadar	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7	Jaffarabad	3	-	-	1	18	3	-	-	-	-	25
8	Harnai	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
9	Jhal Magsi	2	-	-	-	4	1	-	-	-	-	7
10	Kalat	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	2
11	Kech	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
12	Kharan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
13	Khuzdar	1	-	-	-	2	5	-	-	-	-	8
14	Killa Abdullah	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
15	Killa Saifullah	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
16	Kohlu	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
17	Lasbela	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	1	4
18	Loralai	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	3
19	Mastung	-	-	-	-	7	2	-	-	-	1	10
20	Musakhel	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
21	Naseerabad	3	-	-	5	39	8	-	4	-	2	61
22	Noshki	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
23	Panjgur	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
24	Pishin	1	-	-	-	-	3	-	1	-	2	7
25	Quetta	5	4	-	2	5	13	-	6	-	4	39
26	Sibi	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	3
27	Washuk	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1

28	Zhob	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
29	Ziarat	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	2
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>193</b>

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

Honour Killing remained the most frequently committed violent crime against women in the past two years in Balochistan, but whereas a total of 36 cases were reported in 2010, the figure shot up to more than twice that number in 2011 and 86 women were killed in cold blood on the pretext of ‘honour’. Honour Killings were reported from 11 out of 29 districts in the province, showing that the practice is not concentrated in any one area but is fairly widespread. Honour Killings occurred with the greatest intensity in Naseerabad this year too, but 39 women, instead of 10, were killed. A total of 18 women were killed in Jaffarabad, 7 in Mastung, 5 in Pishin, 4 in Jhal Magsi and 2 in Khuzdar. Honour Killings are arrogantly justified as a respected tribal tradition, especially by tribal chieftains who wield considerable political influence in Balochistan, and criticism from human rights activists tends to be angrily dismissed as an attack on tribal culture.

After Honour Killing the most prevalent form of violence against women was Murder, of which 48 cases were reported this year. This adds up to a total of 134 women murdered - 86 for ‘honour’ and 48 on account of some other reason, meaning that 134 incidents out of the total 193 reported from Balochistan related to murder. The data shows that incidents of women being murdered were reported from 15 out of 29 districts, making Murder the most widespread of the categories of VAW in the province. Most incidents were concentrated in the Capital city of Quetta, from where 13 out of 48 cases were reported. Naseerabad again finds mention, and 8 incidents of Murder as against 6 in the previous year, occurred in that city. Khuzdar was next with 5 cases reported. As observed before, the bigger cities, though better policed and with better public administration, are also places where criminals think they can find anonymity, where tensions are high and people from different backgrounds congregate in search of work and livelihood. While crime and violence of all kinds finds fertile ground in the urban centers, incidents of crime can seldom remain concealed, whether perpetrators are caught or not.

Abduction/Kidnapping, followed by Suicide were next in order of occurrence, and the highest number of cases in both categories was reported from Quetta. Five women out of 17 were abducted in Quetta, and 6 women out of 16 committed suicide in that city. The district that reported the next highest number for these crimes was again Naseerabad, with 3 women abducted and 4 taking their own lives. Three Abduction/Kidnapping cases also occurred in Jaffarabad.

The incident of Acid Throwing in which 4 women were injured occurred in Quetta.

The question that arises is: why are Naseerabad and Jaffarabad places where women are particularly unsafe? These two towns are populated by diverse small tribes that came here in

search of livelihood. A well defined canal system provides irrigation for agriculture attracting landless peasants and field workers, who live in isolated pockets with their women and children. The area is conservative and there are many conflicts between the tribes over land and water. The landowners, who wield great influence, are strongly patriarchal and are reluctant to allow egalitarian values to intrude on tribal ways of life for fear of losing power. Women working in the fields are particularly vulnerable, but those from the higher strata of society are also expected to conform to tribal culture and traditions, throwing constitutional and international rights out of the window.

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

The total number of 193 VAW incidents reported from Balochistan, seems to be unrealistically low, considering the patriarchal norms and conservative values that prevail in the province, and the severe restrictions imposed on women, but a positive factor was that all 193 cases reported were registered with the police and FIRs were lodged.

*Table 43: FIR Status of cases of VAW in Balochistan 2011:*

FIR Status	Total
Registered	193
Not Registered	-
No. Information	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>193</b>

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

As regards marital status, 58 or 30.05% victims/survivors out of 193 were married; 44 or 22.79% were unmarried; and there was no information available for 91 or 49.15% of them. The absence of information about half the women reflects the thinking in conservative societies where personal details of women, even names, are not easily revealed.

*Table 44: Marital Status of Victims/Survivors in Balochistan 2011:*

Marital Status	Total
Married	58
Un married	44
No. Information	91
<b>Total</b>	<b>193</b>

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

Table 45 shows that, as with information about marital status, details regarding age group of victims and survivors were also not available. The ages of only 9 women out of 193 could be

obtained, while there was no information in as many as 184 cases. This is a minimal improvement over the previous year when no information at all could be obtained. The Table shows that 7 victims/survivors were under 18 years of age, while 1 was between 19 and 36 years.

**Table 45:** Age Group wise distribution of VAW Victims/Survivors in Balochistan 2011:

<b>Age-Group</b>	<b>Total</b>
0-18years	7
19-36 years	2
37 and above	-
No. Information	184
<b>Total</b>	<b>193</b>

## **Section Seven:**

### **Overview of VAW Incidents in Islamabad Capital Territory:**

Islamabad, the Capital of Pakistan, is situated on the Potohar Plateau a short distance from Rawalpindi. It is a well planned city built in the 1960s when the Capital, which until then had been Karachi, was moved lock, stock and barrel to Islamabad. Though it is the fastest growing city in the country - its population has grown from 100,000 in 1951 to over 1.15 million in 2011. - it is still a small city according to South Asian standards. Islamabad is a cosmopolitan city that attracts people from all over Pakistan and also hosts thousands of Afghan nationals, who flocked to Pakistan as refugees during the Afghan War in the 1980s.

The Potohar region is close to the ancient Buddhist center of Taxila, the Capital of the great Gandhara civilization. The well known historian, Dr. Dani, always used to say that the area in which Islamabad is situated was once Buddhist, and traces of this can still be found in Bari Imam, Golra and Shah Allah Ditta.

The majority of the inhabitants of Islamabad today are Punjabi speaking, but there is also a large Pushtun population and a smaller number of inhabitants who speak Sindhi or Urdu and other languages. Islamabad has the highest literacy rate in the country and its small population contributes 1% of the country's GDP. It also has the best police to population ratio. But in spite of all its plus points Islamabad has a high rate of VAW crimes, and a total of 148 cases in different categories were reported from Islamabad and its rural areas this year.

One reason for this could be that perhaps to a greater extent than in the more settled cities, people come and go for short periods to Islamabad, without neighbors being aware of their identity. There are also those who come and work in Islamabad but live in Rawalpindi, or in neighboring villages. And then, as happens in other cities, people who have migrated from outside have imported their own traditions and found anonymity in ICT.

#### **7.1. Over all Cases of VAW in ICT:**

As can be seen in Table 46, the total number of cases reported from ICT was 148 or 1.73% of the total cases of VAW recorded in 2011. This is a high number when seen in proportion to the size of its population, which is only 0.8% of the total population of the country. It is surprising that with all the attention Islamabad gets from the city administration and law enforcing agencies, the number of incidents reported has increased from 127 in the previous year to 148 in 2011.

**Given below is a breakdown of the cases reported in order of prevalence:**

■ Miscellaneous	41 cases or 27.70%
■ Murder	34 cases or 22.97%
■ Abduction/Kidnapping	27 cases or 18.24%
■ Domestic Violence	21 cases or 14.19%
■ Suicide	9 cases or 6.08%
■ Rape/Gang Rape	8 cases or 5.40%
■ Sexual Assault	5 cases or 3.38%
■ Acid Throwing	2 cases or 1.35%
■ Honour Killing	1 case or 0.68%

Second only to Miscellaneous crimes, of which 41 cases were reported, the Table shows that 34 women were murdered in 2011, making Murder the form of violence most prevalent in ICT. This translates to almost 3 women every month! The previous year too, Murder was reported to be the most prevalent form of VAW, but fewer women (27) had fallen victim to the crime. Abduction and Kidnapping ranked third, with 27 cases as against 21 reported in the previous year. Reports of Domestic Violence, which was the next most frequently committed violence, showed a drastic increase over the previous year, and 21 incidents compared to 11 in 2010 were reported.

An increase was also seen in the incidents of Suicide reported from ICT, 9 against 7 in the previous year; but mercifully, markedly fewer rapes and gang rapes were reported, 8 this year compared to the 19 in 2010. Also, according to the data obtained, 5 women were sexually assaulted, 2 had acid thrown on them and 1 was killed on the pretext of having brought dishonor to her husband or family.

**Breakdown of Miscellaneous**

■ Head and Body Injury	12 cases or 8.12%
■ Threat to Life	8 cases or 5.40%
■ Attempted Suicide	7 cases or 4.73%
■ Harassment	7 cases or 4.73%
■ Torture	4 cases or 2.70%
■ Trafficking	1 case or 0.68%
■ Illegal Custody	1 case or 0.68%
■ Land Encroachment	1 case or 0.68%

The total VAW offences listed under Miscellaneous make up 27.70% of all incidents reported. In this category the majority of incidents related to Head and Body Injury, 12 incidents; Threat to Life 8 incidents; Attempted Suicide 7 incidents; Harassment, also 7 incidents; and Torture 4 incidents. One incident each concerned Trafficking, Illegal custody and Land Encroachment.

**Table 46: Number & Percentage of cases of VAW in ICT during 2011:**

Category of crime	Total Number of Cases	% of the Total
Murder	34	22.97%
Honour killing	1	0.68%
Abduction/ Kidnapping	27	18.24%
Domestic violence	21	14.19%
Suicide	9	6.08%
Rape/ Gang rape	8	5.40%
Sexual assault	5	3.38%
Acid throwing	2	1.35%
Miscellaneous	41	27.70%
<b>Break-Up of Miscellaneous</b>		
Hurt & body Injury	12	8.12%
Torture	4	2.70%
Attempt to Suicide	7	4.73%
Harassment	7	4.73%
Threat to life	8	5.40%
Trafficking	1	0.68%
Illegal custody	1	0.68%
Land encroaching	1	0.68%
<b>Total</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>100%</b>

Table 47 presents the data of VAW cases in ICT from 2008 to 2011. It shows that over the four year period the incidence of VAW has increased by 16.54%. An alarming increase can be clearly seen in incidents of Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Abduction and Kidnapping, Suicides and Murder, with Sexual Assault registering a massive upsurge by 400% and Domestic Violence by 90.91% cases reported. Miscellaneous incidents also showed an upward trend of 10.81%, while Honour Killing remained constant. Luckily, there is also a bright side to the picture - two categories of what can only be described as bestial violence reflected a significant decline, Burning cases by 400% and Rape and Gang Rape by 57.89%.

**Table-47: Number & Percentage of Cases of VAW in ICT during 2008-2011**

Categories of Crime	Number of Cases of VAW in ICT during January to December 2008 to January to December 2011					Percentage increase/decrease in VAW cases between 2010-2011
	Year 2008	Year 2009	Year 2010	Year 2011	Grand Total	
Abduction/Kidnapping	79	52	21	27	179	28.57
Murder	20	39	27	34	120	25.93
Domestic Violence	18	18	11	21	68	90.91
Suicide	07	06	07	09	29	28.57
Honor Killing	02	02	-	01	05	0
Rape/Gang Rape	10	09	19	08	46	-57.89
Sexual Assault	08	02	01	05	16	400
Acid Throwing	02	01	03	02	08	-33.33
Burning	01	02	01	-	04	-100
Miscellaneous	62	41	37	41	181	10.81
<b>Total</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>656</b>	<b>16.54</b>

## 7.2. Bi-Annual Distribution of VAW Offence in ICT:

Table 48 presents the Bi-Annual data for VAW offences from ICT. According to the information obtained the rate of occurrence remained constant throughout the year, and an almost equal number of incidents were reported in the first and second halves of the year.

**Table 48: Bi-annual distribution of VAW Cases in ICT 2011**

Bi-Annual	Total
First six months	72
Second Six months	76
<b>Total</b>	<b>148</b>

## 7.3. Prevalence of Major Categories of VAW:

As noted earlier, considering the small size of its population the number of VAW cases reported from the Capital city of Islamabad and its surrounding rural and peri-rural areas is disproportionately high. The city's Capital Police Force is considered the best in the country and there is a relatively favorable citizen police ratio. The administration is also expected to be more efficient in the Capital. Nevertheless, an increasing number of VAW incidents in all categories, with the exception of Rape/Gang Rape and Acid Throwing, are consistently being reported from Islamabad.

The basic underlying cause for the present situation is undoubtedly the deeply entrenched patriarchal attitude towards women held across society that denies autonomy to women and

considers it necessary to guard and control their personal lives. They divide society into male and female spaces where women's place is in the house, responsible for child bearing and child rearing and looking after the old and the sick. Their decision making powers are usurped and they are expected to live their lives as directed by male elders, fathers, brothers and husbands. Thus, violence against them, if they have the temerity to think otherwise, is seen as natural and accepted behaviour by society. Those who uphold such values choose to ignore the vital contribution of women who work in the fields and those who are the main breadwinners in their families.

Though city life encourages a change in lifestyle and loosening of traditional restrictions, but social values imbibed over the centuries are not easily dislodged. Nevertheless, under normal conditions the police force and city administration may have been able to make the city relatively more secure for women, but given the high level of threat from terrorists, the attention of the city administration and police seems to be predominantly focused on securing the Capital's inhabitants and institutions from terrorist attacks. Given that the Federal Government and diplomatic corps are based here, as are the Federal Parliament, the Senate, the Supreme Court and other important institutions, Islamabad is a high security area in which VAW may be considered even less important than is normally the case!

As matters stand, for the third year running Murder was the most frequently committed violence and a total of 34 women were murdered in ICT in 2011. The perpetrators in most cases are husbands, brothers, ex-husbands and other family members, who may be motivated by unfounded suspicions about the woman's morality, or be incensed at her wanting to lead her own life.

Consistent with the pattern seen in the previous year, Abduction and Kidnapping ranked second in order of prevalence, but with 27 incidents instead of 21. Domestic Violence became the third most committed violence in ICT with 21 incidents, showing an upsurge from the 11 reported in 2010. In fact, incidents in 7 out of 9 categories registered an increase this year, including Suicide, Sexual Assault and Miscellaneous crimes. And Honour Killing, of which no case was reported in the previous year, made an appearance with 1 woman killed in the name of honour.

The only 2 categories where improvement was observed were Rape/Gang Rape and Acid Throwing, both crimes that leave women traumatized and scarred. But, although with much reduced frequency (19 cases were recorded in 2010), as many as 8 incidents of Rape did take place in the limited area of ICT, and so did 2 cases of Acid Throwing. Miscellaneous crimes, such as Hurt and Body Injury, Life Threats, Attempted Suicide, Harassment, Torture, Trafficking, Illegal Custody and Land Encroachment, were also recorded in 2011. Of these, 12 incidents of Hurt and Body Injury were reported, 8 of Threat to Life, and 7 each of Harassment and Attempted Suicide.

#### 7.4. FIR Status of Cases of VAW:

Table 49 shows that FIRs were registered for 88.51% or 131 out of the 148 incidents reported from ICT, no FIR was registered for 8.78% or 13 incidents, and there was no information about 2.70% or 4 cases of VAW. These figures show sensitivity, efficiency and honesty on the part of the Islamabad police, but they also indicate that the problem of interference from persons of influence, so common in such cases in the provinces, is less in evidence in the Capital Territory.

*Table 49: FIR Status of cases of VAW in ICT 2011*

<b>FIR Status</b>	<b>Total</b>
Registered	131
Not Registered	13
No. Information	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>148</b>

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

Information obtained about the Marital Status of Victims/Survivors from ICT seems to be relatively more complete than from the provinces, as 44.59% are reported to be married women; 29.05% unmarried; 1.35% divorced; 7.43% widows; while there was no information about 17.56%.

*Table 50: Marital Status of Victims/Survivors in ICT 2011*

<b>Marital Status</b>	<b>Total</b>
Married	66
Un married	43
Divorce	2
Widow	11
No. Information	26
<b>Total</b>	<b>148</b>

#### 7.6. Age Groups of Victims/Survivors of VAW:

The data presented in Table 51 regarding Age Group of Victims/Survivors shows that 10.8% were children from 0 to 18 years; 20.27% were of ages between 19 and 36; 12.16% were above 37 years; while there was no information about 56.75% of them. This shows that information regarding ages of victims and survivors is not considered important and is not recorded in the majority of reports.

**Table 51: Age Group distribution of Victims/Survivors in ICT 2011**

<b>Age-Group</b>	<b>Total</b>
0-18years	16
19-36 years	30
37 and above	18
No. Information	84
<b>Total</b>	<b>148</b>