



**SDPI**  
Sustainable Development Policy Institute

**Discussion Paper:**

# RAISING HER VOICE IN POLITICAL PARTIES

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# **Raising Her Voice in Political Parties**

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## **Sustainable Development Policy Institute**

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This work is a product of the staff of SDPI (*Qasim Shah, Khansa Naeem and Abdullah Khalid*) with external contributions. The findings, interpretations, and conclusions expressed in this work do not necessarily reflect the views of SDPI.

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We hope this study will stimulate meaningful debate and action to raise women's voices within the inner circles of political parties.

## Summary

This study identifies gender disparities in the overall political sphere of Pakistan. Besides, it specifically examines the legal framework to enhance women's inclusion in politics, particularly focusing on Chapter 11 of the Elections Act 2017. The study further assesses the women's role in the existing political system and decision-making processes. Moreover, it highlights key barriers that impede women to be elected or appointed at key positions within the political parties and suggest reforms to increase their representation in party-level decision making forums.

Women in Pakistan face significant gender disparities in politics. Despite being approximately 49 per cent of the population of Pakistan, they make up only 20 per cent of legislators and hold 9.4 per cent of ministerial positions. The study employs a mixed method approach encompassing a thorough review of legislative amendments, constitutional provisions and international commitments.

The study examines the institutional as well as structural issues in political parties alongside socio-cultural, economic, financial and religious barriers impeding women's representation. To find out the reasons behind limited political opportunities, the study analyzes the overall structures of political parties having representation in parliament and their segregated women wings.

It is learnt that these wings are either marginalized or lack influence in the party structures. Likewise, a few peripheral parties are learnt to have a reserved quota for women in decision making process, but these are limited in number and power. The study finds that there is no discussion and demand for structural reforms within the political parties, which may lead to women presence in decision-making and legislative assemblies.

The study further analyzes the impact of electoral reforms (quotas) on women's representation. Despite legislative and constitutional efforts such as Political Parties Order (PPO) 2002 and Elections Act 2017, women still face systematic challenges, including weak enforcement mechanisms, limited access to resources and deeply ingrained male dominated political cultures.

The findings of the study depict that women's representation in parliament has increased gradually. However, it is still insignificant because of a small percentage of women in decision-making roles at both national and provincial levels. One of the key reasons behind it is the lack of political infrastructure that limits the women inclusion and role in a party to the symbolic one.

In conclusion, the study provides concrete recommendations and calls for an amendment in Section 207 and Section 208 of the Elections Act 2017 setting at least 33 per cent quota for women as members and office-bearers in all the elected and non-elected bodies of all the political parties at all levels.

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## Introduction

In Pakistan, there is hardly any demand or debate on the inclusion of women in political parties since equality-based ladder of participation and growth neither exists within political parties nor in the overall socio-economic milieu of the country. This lack of structural inclusion has caused a steady decline in the ranking on women political empowerment Index<sup>1</sup>. As of 2024, Pakistan ranked at 112 out of 146 countries on the index, with the score of 0.122 (World Economic Forum, 2024). The recent statistics of the World Bank (2024) reveal that presently, only 20 per cent among the Pakistani legislators are women whereas a mere 9.4 per cent had held ministerial positions in 2022 (World Bank 2022), which shows the limited opportunities available to them in the national polity.

Most of the political parties have established separate women wings within their party structure, but this segregation does not auger well for equality based political opportunities. These women wings often lack influence within the central political command because of minimal public visibility, and in most instances, these bodies do not have an independent presence on the party's official websites. However, a few smaller political parties, mostly peripheral, have reserved quotas for women in their apex decision-making forums.

In the prevailing situation, a question arises as to why political workers do not take up this issue within their respective political parties? One of the reasons may be that the nominations on the reserved seats for women in parliament and award of five per cent statutory mandated tickets to women on general seats are the sole prerogative of the party high command. Therefore, the aspirants prefer to avoid the risk of annoying their party leadership. Hence, there is hardly any demand for vital internal party reforms regarding an increase in women's presence in decision-making forums, parliamentary boards as well as central leadership.

This study aims to stimulate and generate a political discourse on this very important issue of women inclusion in political parties that is otherwise ignored. It examines the Elections Act 2017, mainly the Chapter 11, to assess the status of women's inclusion within the mainstream political parties in Pakistan. It further addresses the challenges faced by women in the election process after being appointed as office-bearers in the political parties. The study finally presents a menu for possible reforms in this domain of inclusion. Using pre- and post-legislative impact assessment framework, the study analyzes the effectiveness of electoral reforms on quota system, highlighting changes in women representation in decision-making bodies (such as Senate of Pakistan and national and provincial assemblies) before and after the constitutional amendments.

## Methodology

The study uses mixed method approach in the collection of data. The primary data has been collected by conducting in-depth interviews of parliamentarians and legislative experts (Annex-1) whereas secondary data has been gathered by conducting a thorough review of constitutional provisions, and constitutional

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<sup>1</sup>*Political empowerment subindex represent women in parliament* (Percentage of women holding parliamentary seats as a share of total parliamentary seats), *women in ministerial positions* (Percentage of women holding ministerial portfolios as a share of total ministry positions in each government) *and years with female/male head of state (last 50)* (it includes the number of years in the past fifty-year period for which a woman has held a post equivalent to an elected head of state or head of government in the country. It takes into account prime ministers and/ or presidents).

amendments (including Article 25 and 34 of the Constitution of Pakistan, Political Parties Order 2002, and Elections Act 2017). A generous view of international commitments (such as International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights [ICCPR], Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women [CEDAW], Convention on the Political Rights of Women [CPRW], and United Nations Convention Against Corruption [UNCAC]) has also been taken to understand the barriers impeding women's representation in politics.

### ***Trend Analysis & Time to Find Feeble Voices of Women in Political Parties***

#### ***Gender Disparities in Bicameral Parliament Structure***

In Pakistan, parliament consists of the National Assembly (the Lower House) and the Senate (the Upper House). Starting from the first to 16th legislative assembly, women have rarely given fair representation. In the first Constituent assembly (August 1947- October 1954), women had only 03 per cent of the total seats whereas there was no representation in the second assembly (May 1955-October 1958) followed by a steady increase of only eight seats (1962-1965), 06 seats (1965-1969 and 1972-1977) and 10 seats (March-July 1977). Later, in the two national assemblies of 1985 and 1988, women seats increased to 22 (10 per cent) and 23 respectively. However, the representation of women in the provincial assemblies (PAs) was 05 per cent. Despite this significant improvement, women had no representation in the next two constitutive assemblies (Noreen et al. 2019; Awan 2016). In the 2000s, the women's quota increased to 33% at the local government level. (Khattak 2010; Nazir et al. 2019) that was also reflected with an increase of women representation by 73 (2002-2007) and 76 members (2008-2013).

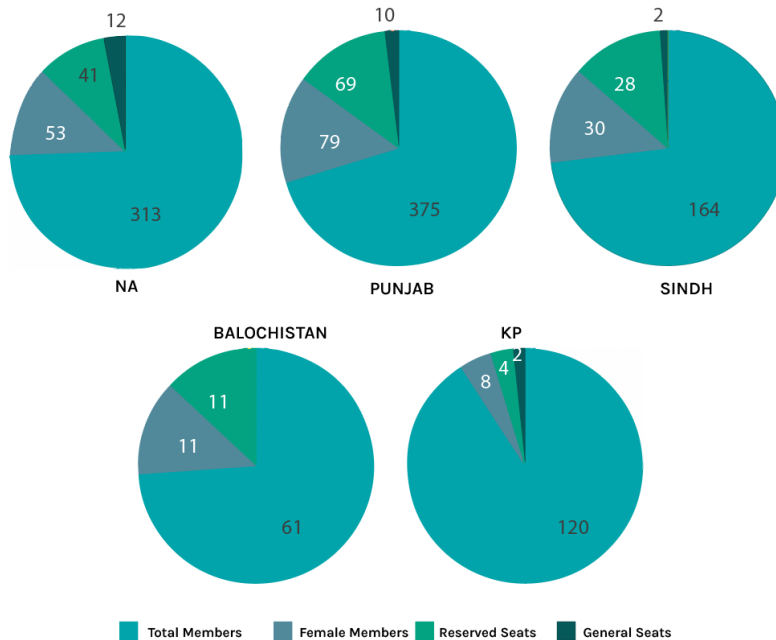
***Table 1: Women Representation in National Assembly***

National Assembly	Women Representation
1947-1954	3 per cent
1955-1958	0
1962-1965	8 seats
1965-1969	6 seats
1972-1977	6 seats
March- July 1977	10 seats
1985-1988	22
1988-1990	23
1990-1993	2
1997-1999	6
2002-2007	73
2008-2013	76
2013-2018	69
2018-2023	68

*Sources: Noreen et al. 2019, Awan 2016, Khattak 2010 and Nazir et al. 2019*

In 2013, women made up 20% of parliament, holding 17 seats in the Senate and 70 seats in the National Assembly (Begum 2023) and 69 seats in the 15<sup>th</sup> National Assembly (Noreen et al. 2019). In 2023 general polls, 53 women were elected to the National Assembly<sup>2</sup>, which is quite a low representation. At present, despite comprising 48.51 per cent of the country's total population, women constitute 16.9 per cent of total seats as shown in figure 1. The 78-year political and legislative struggle (Political Parties Order, 2002 and Elections Act 2017) depicts the gradual opening of political space for women.

**Figure 1: Women representation in national and provincial assemblies**



Source: Authors' design, based on data retrieved from the official websites of National Assembly, and Provincial Assemblies of the Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP).

The data gives a dismal picture of women representation in provincial assemblies as shown in Figure 1. Without an affirmative action, there will be no significant change, and their presence in these assemblies would be minimal, as depicted in figure 1. The Punjab has the highest representation of women, i.e. 79 (21 per cent), but majority of women (69) are selected on reserved seats and only 10 women (2.7 per cent) are elected on general seats. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has the lowest women representation with the total number of six women in parliament. Out of these six women seats, two are elected on general seats and four are selected by the parties on reserved seats.

Likewise, underrepresentation exists in constitutional roles like speakers, deputy speakers and other advisory and parliamentary roles. The Table 1 depicts the scenario of provincial cabinets. The Punjab has only female Chief Minister, Punjab is the only province that has female Chief Minister, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has no representation of women at ministerial level whereas Sindh & Balochistan have minimal women representation.

<sup>2</sup> [https://na.gov.pk/en/mna\\_list\\_w.php?list=wome](https://na.gov.pk/en/mna_list_w.php?list=wome)

**Table 2: Women Representation in Provincial Cabinets and Functionaries of Pakistan (2024)**

Assembly	Total Number of Provincial Ministers	Female Ministers	Female Parliamentary Secretaries	Female Advisors and Special Assistants
Punjab	18	3	6	2
Sindh	19	2	12	0
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	15	0	-	-
Balochistan	14	1	2	2

Source: Data retrived from websites of provincial assemblies of Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan and KP.

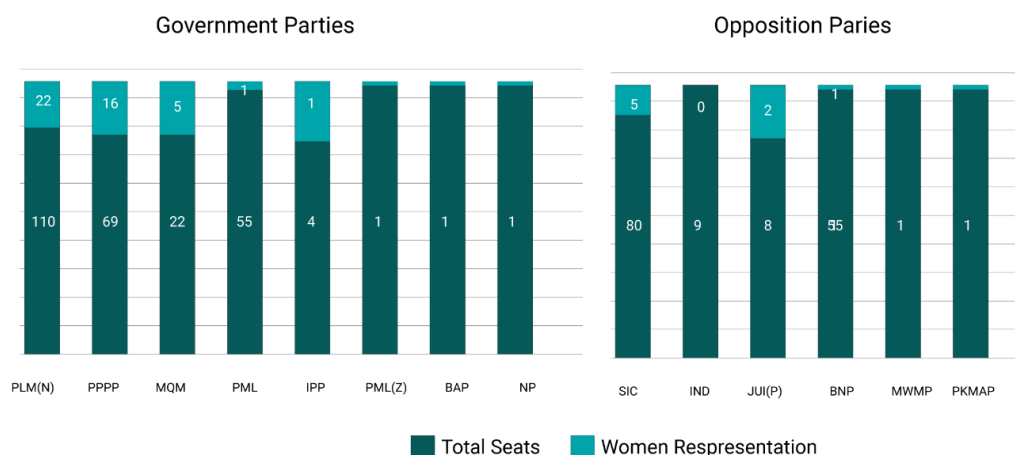
### Time to find missing women in political parties

In Pakistan, most of the political parties lack even a proper organizational infrastructure at grass roots level. In the absence of established offices or secretariats, usually the residences of party leadership or ticket holders serve as the rallying point. This impedes the participation of ordinary party members and supporters to be part of party planning, reducing their status to passive participants in big gatherings and protests.

As of February 13, 2025, there were 167 political parties registered with the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP). However, only six of these are headed by women. These six parties are politically inactive and have no representation in national or provincial assemblies.

Out of a total registered with the ECP, only 14 parties have representation in parliament. Besides, there are only five other political parties that have a minor representation<sup>3</sup> at provincial level. In total, 52 women have been elected to the 16<sup>th</sup> National Assembly of Pakistan with a segregation of 45 women from the government side while seven from the opposition parties.

**Figure 2: Women in Political Parties having representation in parliament**



Source: Based on data retrieved from National Assembly website: <https://www.na.gov.pk/en/index.php>.

<sup>3</sup> Tehrik-e-Labaik Pakistan in Punjab, Pakistan Tehrik-i-Insaf-Parliamentarian in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Jamaat-i-Islami in Sindh, and Balochistan National Party (Awami) and Haq Do Tehrik in Balochistan

It is noteworthy to observe that Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz and Pakistan People’s Party-Parliamentarian had ample women representation on their respective Parliamentary Boards while awarding tickets to their candidates for the general elections 2024. Here, the role and contributions made by Women Parliamentary Caucus must be acknowledged in raising consciousness about women’s inclusion in the political parties’ structures and decision-making platforms.

The table below shows the data of women representation in political parties at federal level.

**Table 3: Women in Political Parties having representation in parliament**

<b>Political parties in parliament</b>	<b>What the party Constitution says</b>	<b>Women in top leadership at national level</b>	<b>Women in Central Decision-Making Forums</b>
Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz	Gender inclusive language with 10% nomination of women and other groups by president, and their representation in General Council, Central Working Committee and as member of convention; Separate women wing exists.	Two out of seven; Senior Vice-President and Information Secretary	No information available though the highest representation of women within the National Assembly depicts their significance.
Pakistan People’s Party-Parliamentarian	Doesn’t specifically address women  Separate women wing exists but it is not mentioned in the party constitution.	One out of four, i.e. Information Secretary.	No information available, but party has second highest women representation.
Pakistan Tehrik-i-Insaf	Encourages women representation in politics and at decision-making levels. Talks about separate women’s wing, their ex-officio representation in party forums, executive committee at Tehsil, district and divisional levels and Parliamentary Board for women’s tickets.	The Election Commission of Pakistan did not recognize the last internal party elections.	No information available
Sunni Ittehad Council	Does not mention the women’s wing. Though women’s wing doesn’t exist, it offers membership to women.	Zero out of fourteen	Nil
Muttahida Qaumi Movement, Pakistan	Women’s wing exists, but it is not mentioned in the party constitution.	One out of five, i.e. Deputy Convener	Two out of thirty members of the Coordination Committee
Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam Pakistan	Women wing exists, but it is not mentioned in the party constitution.	None	Nil

Istehkam-i-Pakistan Party	Nothing specific mentioned about separate women's wing	One out of five, i.e. Information secretary	Nothing mentioned in the internal party election notification.
Pakistan Muslim League-Q	A separate women's wing exists and mentioned as well	One out of seven, i.e. Vice President	Nothing mentioned in the internal party election notification.
Majlis Wahdatul Muslimeen	Usage of gender inclusive language. Neither is there any mention of separate women's wing nor exists.	Zero out of seven	Nil
Balochistan National Party	Allocates 10 seats for women in the Central Committee besides the position of Secretary Women Affairs at all levels. It also mentions women wing.	One out of 15, i.e. Secretary Women	9 out of 36 in Central Committee
Balochistan Awami Party	Usage of gender inclusive language along with women wing	Zero out of fourteen	Nothing mentioned in the internal party election notification
National Party	There is 15 per cent women representation in Party Congress and National Council besides the position of Secretary Women Affairs at all levels. It also has women wing.	Two out of fifteen	Zero out of twenty-seven
Pakistan Muslim League-Zia	Usage of gender inclusive language along with women wing	Zero out of fifteen	Nothing mentioned in the internal party election notification
Pashtoonkhwa Milli Awami Party	Talks about forums of democratic women and has a women wing.	Zero out of seventeen.	Nothing mentioned in the internal party election notification
Awami National Party	Written in the language of equality. It has quota for women in the Central Council.	Five vice-presidents and five joint secretaries.	10 out of 38 in Central Council
PTI-Parliamentarian	Nothing about women wing	Zero	No information
Jama'at-i-Islami	Separate women's wing and members of Shoora	Zero	A separate Shoora comprising 10 women
Tehrik-e-Labbaik	Nothing mentioned about the women's wing	Zero	No information
Haq do Tehreek	No information	No information	No information

Courtesy Mr Zafarullah Khan (Former Executive Director, Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services) has developed the table based on the information available at [www.ecp.gov.pk](http://www.ecp.gov.pk).

## **BOX 1: Women's Inclusion in Mainstream Political Parties in Pakistan — The Missing Links**

**Increased Visibility, Limited Influence:** Generally, women hold leadership roles with limited influence. For instance, women wings focus on social issues but have no say in decision-making.

**Women Leadership from Political Families:** Women leaders often emerge from political families that confine opportunities for women outside genre.

**Role in Political Campaigns & Electoral Politics:** Overall, women's participation in elections has increased but remains challenging due to limited financial resources, orthodox cultural and social norms and violence during electioneering.

**Mainstream Political Parties' Attitudes Towards Women:** A few mainstream parties (PPP, PML-N) have been more progressive, while others have faced criticism for gender inclusivity. The overall political culture in country welcomes women as voters.

**Impact of Feminist Movements & Advocacy:** Women's rights activism has influenced political discourse. International frameworks and organizations such as the United Nations & the World Bank push for more gender inclusiveness.

**Political Parties' Women's Empowerment Policies:** Gender is included in political manifestos of most of the parties, but they lack implementation mechanisms.

*Courtesy Mr Kanwar Muhammad Dilshad (Former Secretary, Election Commission of Pakistan), who produced a background paper for this report.*

### *International commitments - domestic compliance*

The 1973 Constitution of Pakistan<sup>4</sup> asserts that "The State shall exercise its powers and authority through the chosen representatives of the people." It aligns with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). Article 21 of the UDHR underlines the right of all citizens to directly or indirectly take part in politics<sup>5</sup>.

Pakistan signed United Nations' Convention on the Political Rights of Women in 1954. The Convention guarantees women the right to vote in all elections on equal terms with men and to stand for election to public offices without discrimination. Further, it avows women's right to hold public office and perform public functions on equal terms<sup>6</sup>.

Pakistan is also a signatory to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). It empathizes on the elimination of discrimination against women in political and public life. Article 7 focuses on women's right to vote, participate in elections, policy making and hold public office<sup>7</sup> (Annex 2).

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.pakistani.org/pakistan/constitution/part2.ch1.html>

<sup>5</sup> <http://hrlibrary.umn.edu/edumat/studyguides/votingrights.html#:~:text=The%20Universal%20Declaration%20of%20Human%20Rights%20in%20Article%2021%20states,public%20service%20in%20his%20country.>

<sup>6</sup> [https://treaties.un.org/doc/treaties/1954/07/19540707%2000-40%20am/ch\\_xvi\\_1p.pdf](https://treaties.un.org/doc/treaties/1954/07/19540707%2000-40%20am/ch_xvi_1p.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/convention-elimination-all-forms-discrimination-against-women#:~:text=Altogether%2C%20the%20Convention%20provides%20a,elimination%20of%20discrimination%20against%20women>

Despite being signatory to the several declarations and conventions, the country is still struggling to achieve gender equality in politics.

Highlighting the significance of role of National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW) in the context of legal and policy barriers, Dilshad (2025) is of the view that Pakistan has specialized bodies and action plans such as NCSW and Gender Reform Action Plan to promote gender equality, but these institutions do not have sufficient support to challenge discriminatory practices within political parties.

### *Where to find women in political parties*

In Pakistan, every shade of political opinion or religious/sectarian denomination is now organized as a full-fledged party. After a review of the constitutions of various political parties, Khan (2025) enlisted the following decision-making forums within a democratic political party for engendered opportunities:

- (a) Membership (open to all, special drives for women),
- (b) Working Committees, Central Executive Committees, Majlis-e-Shoora, etc. (highest decision-making forums),
- (c) Officer-bearers (at all levels from federal to local),
- (d) Wings (women, students, youths, labourers, lawyers, etc.),
- (e) Policy Groups and think tanks,
- (f) Manifesto Committees, and
- (g) Parliamentary Boards<sup>8</sup>.

Khan further suggests that political parties must ensure equality of opportunities or quotas for parliamentary offices (Speakers, Deputy Speaker, Whips, Parliamentary Leaders, and Leaders of the Opposition), chairpersons of Standing Committees, Ministers, Ministers of State, Advisors, Parliamentary Secretaries, Special Assistants, etc.

### **Constitutional and Legislative Framework for Women Representation in Politics**

The 1973 Constitution pledges equal rights to men and women under Article 25. Similarly, Article 34 prioritizes the State's responsibility to ensure women's participation in every sphere of life.

Political Parties Order 2002, which strengthened the constitutional framework of Pakistan, was an important legislative effort aimed at enhancing women's participation in politics. A major component was holding the political parties responsible for ensuring women's participation in their parties. Moreover, PPO 2002 demands political parties to allocate reserved seats for women as election candidates in national and provincial assemblies. The PPO 2002 was further amended in 2013 and a new clause, Article 8A, was incorporated in it. This clause binds political parties to have at least 10 per cent of female candidates in their respective parties for electoral post in the general elections.

Amendment in PPO 2002 due to efforts of Pakistan People's Party leaders, Dr Nafisa Shah and Dr Azra Fazal Pechuho, led to a draft Bill under Article 10 requiring political parties a minimum of 33% quota for women in the political parties' general councils and other associated bodies at federal, provincial, and municipal level. However, this Bill was not approved. Furthermore, under the framework of PPO 2002,

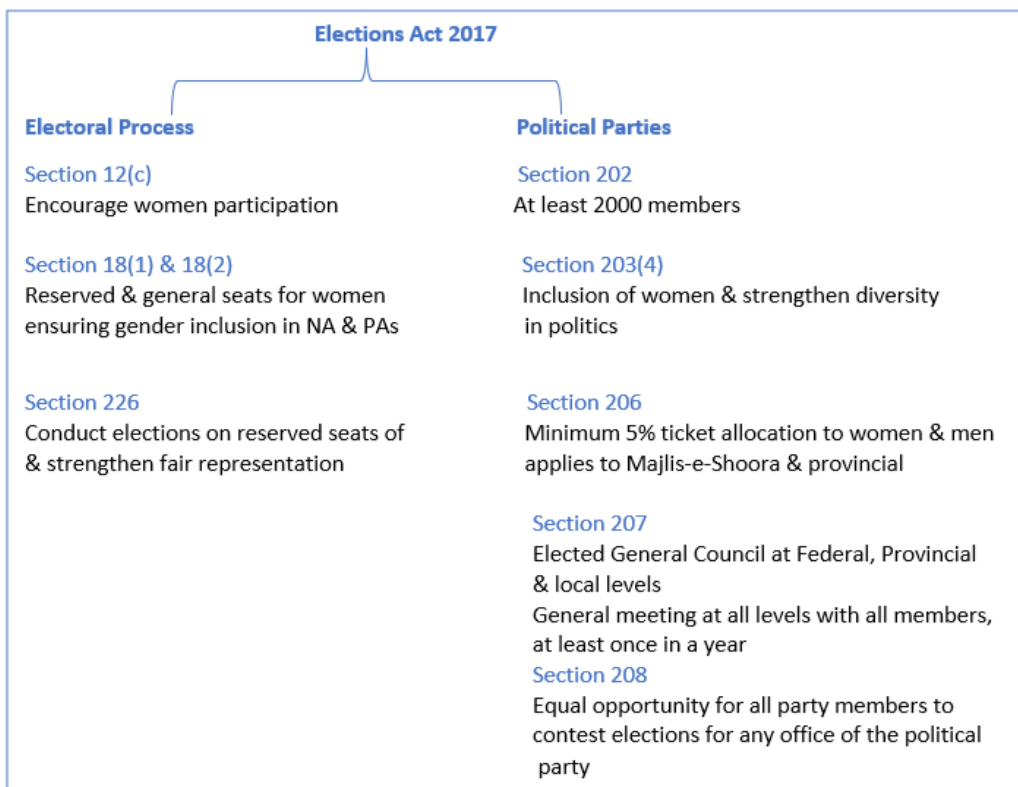
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<sup>8</sup> In Pakistan, parliamentary boards of political parties award tickets to candidates to contest general elections.

constitutional amendment to Article 8 significantly enhanced women political representation (National Assembly of Pakistan, 2013)<sup>9</sup>.

The Elections Act 2017 was another important effort made to repeal the Political Parties Order 2002 under Section 241 of the Act. Section 206 (1) of the Act mandated that 5% of the party tickets in the general elections should be allocated to female candidates. This legislation was brought to ensure that women political participation in Pakistan increases beyond the reserved seats. Subsection (4) of Section 203 of the ECA 2017 provides that women should be encouraged to become the party members, therefore, a woman, who becomes a member, should equally be encouraged to be an office-bearer under Section 208 of Elections Act 2017. Similarly, Section 207 calls for an amendment to reserve quota for women in the elected General Council of a political party.

**Figure 3: Relevant provisions in the Elections Act 2017**



Source: [Elections Act 2017](#)

The Elections Act 2017 includes provisions for women’s representation, yet it has some clear-cut gender gaps. For instance, women on reserved seats are elected through party lists rather than electoral votes, which raise concerns on whether all women members have equal electoral opportunities in legislations? If not, why is it so? If yes, how the act can ensure equal opportunity for all women members? Likewise,

<sup>9</sup> Amendment in Political Parties Order, 2002 is available online at: [https://na.gov.pk/uploads/documents/1379414896\\_499.pdf](https://na.gov.pk/uploads/documents/1379414896_499.pdf)

political parties often sideline women while giving leadership roles, and the act has no mandate in support of their meaningful participation in decision-making.

It is also important to note that ‘political parties in Pakistan exhibit varying degrees of commitment to women’s empowerment and inclusion in their constitutions and manifestos. While some parties have made strides, many still lack concrete measures for women’s representation’ (Dilshad 2025). The study featured an engaging examination of the intersection between constitutional provisions and party manifestos regarding women’s participation. On various occasions, the study highlighted instances where party manifestos served as a crucial supplement to the Constitution, bridging gaps and enhancing provisions for women’s inclusion and participation within the party framework.

### Examining factors that impede women in political parties

Limited representation of women in politics is rooted in number of variables. However, a few factors (such as institutional, economic, cultural and political) play key roles in their systematic exclusion. In addition, weak legislation and political polarization have hindered their political pression in terms of gender equality.

#### Box 2: Barriers to women participation in political parties

Barrier Category	Key Challenges
Institutional	Internal party rules often exclude women from selection processes and use of party resources.
Structural	Parties have no proper political support networks for women. Electoral mechanisms, such as reserved seats, limit women's political influence. Women wings are often limited to symbolic roles, leaving women activists without significant influence in party decision-making processes. This isolation restricts them from their leadership role and reduces their visibility within party structure.
Economic	Financial resources for campaign funding are limited. Women’s dependency on male relatives for political financing reduces autonomy.
Cultural	Patriarchal society discourages women’s participation in politics. Gender stereotypes and societal expectations hinder leadership aspirations.
Political	Male-dominated political culture restricts women to non-influential roles. Political dynasties and nepotism limit leadership opportunities for women without political lineage. Alongside political polarization, threats, violence, and harassment discourage women from active participation.
Legal	Legal framework fails to fully support equal political participation. Weak implementation of gender equality laws, i.e. 05 per cent women quota on general seats is not fully enforced across parties, so with no penalties for non-compliance, parties may place women in unwinnable constituencies, undermining the intent of quota.
Religious	Religious interpretations are sometimes used to justify gender inequality.

*Courtesy: Mr Kanwar Muhammad Dilshad, the former secretary, Election Commission of Pakistan*

## Recommendations

Keeping in mind that political parties in Pakistan are primarily the 'voluntary organizations', there is a need to bring about multi-pronged structural changes and reforms within the party structures. Some of the suggestions are given below:

- Fix a quota for women representation based on their share in total population (49 per cent). Women should be given leadership roles within the parties' decision-making forums (both elected and non-elected) at national, provincial and district levels. This measure would grant them more influence in making party decisions and policy formulation. To achieve this, Section 207 and Section 208 of the Elections Act 2017 should be amended to reserve if not 49% minimum 33% quota for women to become *i) a member of the elected General Council, and ii) an office-bearer of a political party at federal, provincial and local level in all elected and non-elected bodies.*
- As legislated in Section 202 of the Elections Act 2017, the requirement of minimum 2,000 members to enlist a political party with the Election Commission of Pakistan should be amended to have a mandatory requirement of 33 per cent women representation endorsing enlisting of new political party with ECP, if not 49 per cent.

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## Annex 1

<b>Sr. No</b>	<b>Parliamentarians/Experts</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
01.	Dr Shahida Rehmani	MNA/Secretary Women Parliamentarian Caucus	PPPP
02.	Syed Shehla Raza	MNA	PPPP
03.	Samina Khalid Ghurki	MNA	PPPP
04.	Dr Shazia Sobia Aslam Soomro	MNA	PPPP
05.	Tahira Aurangzeb	MNA	PMLN
06.	Rana Ansar	MNA	MQM
07.	Sabeen Ghauri	MNA	MQM
08.	Shahida Begum	MNA	JUI (P)
09.	Fawzia Arshad	Senator	PTI
10.	Dr Zarqa Suharwardy Taimur	Senator	PTI
11.	Kanwar Muhammad Dilshad	Former Secretary	Election Commission of Pakistan
12.	Zafarullah Khan	Former Executive Director	Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services (PIPS)

## Annex 2

Convention	Year Signed/Ratified	Adopted in Pakistan	Article	Rights Guaranteed	Alignment with Pakistan's Commitments
<b>UDHR<sup>10</sup></b>	Ratified in 1948	1948	21	Participation in governance, equal access to public service, vote in free elections	Aligns with the 1973 Constitution of Pakistan which ensures political rights of people
<b>CPRW<sup>11</sup></b>	Ratified in 1953	1954	-	Right for women to vote, hold public office, and run for office without discrimination	Commits to ensuring equal political rights for women.
<b>CEDAW<sup>12</sup></b>	Ratified in 1979	1996	7	Elimination of barriers to women's representation in political/public sphere	Pledges to eliminate discrimination against women in political domains.
<b>ICCPR<sup>13</sup></b>	Signed in 2008, Ratified in 2010	2010	25	Right to vote and run for office	Guarantees basic civil and political rights under international law.
<b>UNCAC<sup>14</sup></b>	Ratified in 2005	2007	7 (2)	Transparency in political funding	Pledges to uphold transparency in political processes and funding.

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights>

<sup>11</sup> [https://treaties.un.org/doc/treaties/1954/07/19540707%2000-40%20am/ch\\_xvi\\_1p.pdf](https://treaties.un.org/doc/treaties/1954/07/19540707%2000-40%20am/ch_xvi_1p.pdf)

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/>

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/international-covenant-civil-and-political-rights>

<sup>14</sup> <https://uncaccoalition.org/>