



# POLITICAL PARTIES MANIFESTOS AND RELIGIOUS MINORITIES IN PAKISTAN

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## INTRODUCTION:

The political system in Pakistan is always been at stake due to several reasons. Democratic system has never been sustained for longer period of time. Democratic system has yet not been developed strong roots in the political system. Politically oriented communities are stressing for the restoration & sustainability of democracy in the country. As democracy means ruling by the majority of any country or state. It could be explained as “Government of the People, Government by the people & Government for the people”. But it is strange in Pakistan even in the name of democracy many people are deprived from their rights as per the definition of the real democracy.

History of the country reflects that Pakistan has been ruled throughout by feudal lords, Land lords, Tribal Heads & ex-Bureaucrats & they were the representatives of only 2 to 3 % Privileged class of the country. Certain Privileged class is dominated on the entire Political System of the country including entire Perks & Privileges of the country, administrative services, overall economy & the general decision making process. Whereas, the remaining 97 to 98 % un-privileged population is deprived from their basic necessities, facilities, shares, rights of life. This certain class is deprived to participate & exercise their rights in the political system being economic power in running the economy state affairs. In these circumstances being politically deprived & economically handicapped class/community is unable to find out a space in the legislative corridors of the country. While this entire situation is resulted a un-visible democratic environment in the country & resulted many deprivation of the basic rights of several communities serving in the economic growth & development of Pakistan.

Keeping such un-visible political environment in mind, several communities of the country have raised their own observations in order to respond their basic rights. Such kind of communities has very logical observation that there is no or very less reflection of “Minorities Rights” in the Manifestos of Political Parties. Although there are plenty of observations not reflected by the manifestos of different political parties but very essential & most critical observations “Minorities Rights” which is not properly addressed & reflected by different political parties in their manifestos. There are a number of minorities playing their positive role in the overall growth & development of Pakistan & are being law abiding citizens of Pakistan like Christians, Hindus, Ahmadies, Sikhs, Parsis, Bahis and Kalash.

Religious minorities living in Pakistan are facing several problems in different walks of life. Religious minorities in Pakistan are widely viewed as plagued or under attack due to many reasons. In 2008, the population of Pakistan was estimated to be 163.3 million. According to 1998 Census the population of Pakistan was 137 million. Muslim Population was 96.16 % & religious minorities were 3.84 % of the entire population of the country. The census of 1998 showed that religious minorities in Pakistan were 13 million. Overall, minorities represent 8 % of the total population of the country. Pakistani Minorities consists of Christians, Hindus, Ahmadies, Buhais, Buddhists, Kalash, Parsis and Sikhs.

Pakistan was envisioned as a progressive, democratic & tolerant society, which, while retaining Muslim majority, would give equal rights to its non-Muslim citizens. Almost all the citizens of the country believe that Pakistan would improve its people’s socio-economic conditions, and that people of all faiths and practices would continue to live as equal citizens of this country. When Pakistan was founded in 1947,

its secular foundation father wanted to create a homeland for south Asia's Muslims, not an Islamic state. Quaid-e-Azam, clearly declared that non-Muslims would be equal citizens in the new country. But Pakistan's trajectory after independence has been very different. At the time of partition in 1947, almost 23 % of Pakistan's population was comprised of non-Muslim citizens. However, according to the official figures the proportion of non-Muslims has declined to approximately 3 % of the entire population of the country. The religious minorities in Pakistan are not accepting these figures & their claim about 6% of the entire population of Pakistan.

#### METHODOLOGY:

Methodology for compilation of the respective analytical report was adopted to follow the below mentioned procedure as stated in the following paragraphs. The primary data was collected through collection of already available relevant materials, Review of literature, desk review, information collection through consultation with individuals & Key informative interviews. However, Center for Peace & Development conducted Consultative session with different nationally streamlined Political Parties of the country in Quetta. Key activist & representatives of several Political Parties actively participated in the session concerned. Their mind set & feedback about the reflection of minorities' rights in their manifestoes were noted & recorded as source of secondary data collection. Based on such sources of information collection, the report is compiled & developed.

#### ISSUES OF RELIGIOUS MINORITIES:

Religious minorities' in Pakistan are facing several issues & problems starting from schools till public offices in almost all corner of the country. Recent violence incidents against minorities in the country have focused new attention on the predicament of minorities in a country generally perceived to be a homogenous Muslim nation. Sectarianism in Pakistan started as an Urban Phenomenon. Kidnapping for ransom in the country especially in Sindh & Balochistan is more common practice. Minorities reserved quota in any government department is not implementing. All the minorities' students in remote areas of the province in Balochistan are bound to appear in the examinations from class 3 to intermediate for compulsory subject like Islamiyat instead of Ethics. Great discrimination among various Muslims & non-Muslims minorities persists in the province of Balochistan.

The Basic & fundamental rights of all the human beings are protected under two pivotal umbrellas for example Under the "**Universal Declaration of Human Rights**" and "**1973 constitution of Pakistan**". Human being covers all the races living on this earth planet. Similarly as per the Article-9 of the 1973 constitution of Pakistan gives all basic & fundamental rights to every citizen of the country regardless race, color, area & religion. Balochistan is also part of the country and in the province has ethnically and religiously a diverse population. The make-up, grooming & up-gradation of any society mainly & exclusively stay & depend on education sector. Education plays a strong, unique & critical role in the building of any society. Keeping such facts & realities in mind, the minorities in the province of Balochistan are facing a serious issue related to education sector. This is only education that develops the social fabric of any society in any area of the country. The minorities' students in Balochistan are deprived from a

special subject to be offered by education department as alternate of “ISLAMIAT”. As there are several minorities’ students in almost every city of the Province started from Chaman continued till Gwader & Musakhail. A single school in certain cities would not be without a student belongs to Minorities Communities in Balochistan. But the students (Belongs to minorities’ communities) in all cities & districts of the province are seriously facing such an alarming issue. They are strictly bound to adopt the one & only “Islamiat” as subject from class one till intermediate. This situation is becoming more miserable, critical & crucial for all minorities student s in Balochistan.

Keeping all the facts & figures in mind to properly address & highlight such observations of the respective deprived communities, lets evaluate, examine & monitor the manifestos of certain political parties in relation to minorities rights. This report is compiled & is considered to be fixed as mile stone for the custodians of such political parties. Similarly this report would focus & emphasize on observations raised by minorities of the country emphasizing on such objectives,

- HOW THE POLITICAL VISION ABOUT MINORITIES’ RIGHTS COULD BE RECOGNIZED & IDENTIFIED.
- WHAT KIND OF ATTENTION IS NEEDED & REQUIRED TO BE ADDRESSED IN ORDER TO ENSURE THE MINORITIES RIGHTS IN PAKISTAN?
- HOW THE ATTENTION OF POLITICAL PARTIES COULD BE DIVERTED TOWARDS MINORITIES RIGHTS IN PAKISTAN.

These objectives could be addressed & articulated in the light of those parameters which are highlighted in the manifestos of different political parties. Such parameters are discussed in detail with analytical approach to mention all the vital points reflected in the manifestos of different political parties.

#### POLITICAL PARTIES IN PAKISTAN IN CURRENT SCENARIO:

There are number of political Parties, some are with political vision struggling on national basis, while some have continued their politics with the political vision as regional political struggle. Most popular national & regional political Parties in Pakistan are Pakistan People’s Party (PPP), Pakistan Muslim League- Nawaz League (PML-N), Pakistan Muslim League-Qaid-e-Azam League (PML-Q), Jamiat Ulma Islam-Falzal Rehman (JUI-F), Jamiat Ulma Islam-Nazaryathi (JUI-Nazaryathi), Awami National Party (ANP), Muthaheda Qoumi Movement (MQM), Pashtoonkhwa Milli Awami Party (PkMAP), Pakistan Tehreek Insaf (PTI), Jamiat Islami-Pakistan, Jamoori Watan Party (JWP), Balochistan National Party (BNP) & National Party (NP).

These are the major Political parties of the country & are contributing with their pivotal role for overall growth, stable economy & regular development of Pakistan. But parallel with these major interventions certain Political parties are also responsible for their positive, demand driven role & creating enabling environment for all the stake holders of several communities prevailing in the country through regular & continued legislation process in Pakistan.

Keeping in mind the prevailing circumstances of Pakistan, Still a real democratic culture has not been developed & established in Pakistan, because real democracy means ruling by the majority

population of the elected communities. This is why most essential & very important because to deliver as per commitment of the ruling political party (as mentioned in their manifestos) to the respective communities regarding their wish & desires during the entire election process. Unfortunately, in the history of Pakistan only 2 % privileged class is managing almost all affairs of the country, have tried & are trying to induct their own members into legislative bodies both at provincial & national level, While the remaining 98% lower & middle class population/communities is still deprived from their rights. This monopoly of the 2% privileged class is the vital reason of the instability & insurgency in the democratic system & institutions of the Pakistan. Certain 2% ruling class mainly pertaining of the feudal lords, whereas, the remaining 98% population consists of the poor, oppressed and deprived communities. It is now for the people of Pakistan to evaluate, assess, judge and decide as to how this small self-centered 2% ruling class could solve the problems faced by the 98% of the deprived communities of the country.

The political history of Pakistan tells us that the communities belongs to lower middle class are serving in the country with unified mindset like they would never resist the undemocratic & unconstitutional interventions in the country. As a result they are kept on a certain distance from such legislative bodies that they could not highlight, mention, boost & struggle for their due rights in the same legislative bodies in Pakistan. Similarly, it is evident from the history of the country that if any kind of movement related to Human Rights, Women Rights, Child Rights or Minorities Rights has been presented in the respective legislative bodies, in any shape has been abruptly rejected. The basic objectives of the respective 2% upper class being representatives of the 98% deprived communities are only two like to come & join the political party for holding power & enjoying the privileges. Whereas, Power would be utilize & exercise for restoration of financial expenditure during election process.

The role of certain political Parties in this regard is also to be focus, concentrate & emphasize due to certain reasons that they must recognize the aforesaid facts. While certain communities are the catalysts to provide the same opportunity to lead them till legislative bodies (National & Provincial Assemblies). It has been observed that political stability in the country could never be observed prosper & stable until & unless the political parties would not play their essential role in different manners. This is most essential for the political stability in the country & ultimately this would be resulted on economically stable & socially prosperous Pakistan. Similarly, the members of the respective legislative bodies both provincial & national could be nominated from 98% deprived communities of the country with following qualities like Morally Honest. Literally qualified & socially committed. This sort of character holding members of the legislative institutions could deliver best results for the deprived communities of Pakistan.

#### ROLE OF POLITICAL PARTIES & MINORITIES RIGHTS:

The role of the Political Parties is very crucial, critical & of a great importance especially in the prevailing scenario of the country as Political insurgency & instability is persistent, Political awareness is lacking, good linkages & relationship is not developed so far among the political parties, Political Reforms in relation to electoral rules & regulations, Unstable economy, Energy crises along with ensuring good governance among the institutions, are the most essential, very important & challenging issues of the current political government. Whereas, these issues are to be address, resolve properly for bright & prosperous future of the country. However, there is certain other essential & most brutal but astonishing

issue known as the “Minorities rights”. All political parties in the country are claiming for the minorities’ rights through open discussions, debates, seminars & Political gatherings. But most importantly is that till what extent the “Minorities Rights” are covered & reflected by the manifestos of such political parties present in Pakistan. Following Tabulated presentation is reflecting & highlighting the role of major Political Parties both National & Regional in relation to Minorities Rights as reflected in their Manifestos.

### PAKISTAN PEOPLE'S PARTY PARLIAMENTARIANS (PPPP) MANIFESTO ON MINORITIES RIGHTS:

The manifesto of PPP is reflecting some pivotal provisions in relation to minorities' rights. Detail of certain provisions is listed as:

- ✦ The prominent provision within the manifesto of PPP is creation of equal opportunities through progressive legislation & policy reforms.
- ✦ The second essential provision in the manifesto of PPP is to build consensus for special procedure in the law for prevention of forced conversion from one religion to other religion.
- ✦ The most important provision in relation to minorities in PPP's manifesto is to incorporate in primary & high school curriculum the 11<sup>th</sup> August, 1947 speech of Quaid-E-Azam which leads to provide a clear vision for religious harmony in the country.
- ✦ Strengthening to promote religious properties along with the places for worship (Specified for Minorities) with effective security, renovate & restore them as per their requirements.
- ✦ The most alarming provision of the minority communities is acknowledging that violence which resulted & takes lives along with destroys properties could never be fully rewarded, make reparation for lost assets, income & opportunities.
- ✦ The struggle for increasing more number of seats for capital territory (Islamabad) in the national assembly of Pakistan for better representation of minorities at higher forum in the capital.
- ✦ Struggling for the reserved quota of minorities' & other deprived communities in public sector to avoid discrimination with minorities groups in the country.
- ✦ The major provision in the manifesto of PPP is to revisit, revive & reconstitute the national commission on minorities' rights as statutory body in relation to make regular meetings mandatory with provision of separate budget along with a secretariat to be established.
- ✦ Struggling & ensuring for the seeking the parliaments instructions & guidelines via its two most important standing committees on minorities rights to re-visit & review the impacts of constitutional clauses which provides & results discrimination on the basis of religion in the country.
- ✦ Creation & ensuring of enabling environment in all educational institutions comprising of Primary, Secondary Schools, Colleges, Universities & other higher education institutions, to protect their students from any kind of discrimination on the basis of religion.

*PPP has a great & nice coverage of all the relevant rights of mostly minorities' populations present in Pakistan. This political party has not only reflected the basic rights of minorities in their manifesto but also have a tremendous coverage of the basic need & demand of minorities like reflection of educational institutions where they are getting education in a very tough, stressed & un-willing condition*



- ✦ To struggle for the for the creation of environment in order to encourage religious tolerance in the country via public information campaign & by disseminating a clear cut & visible message among all the institutions of the country they would be accountable for any sort of discrimination, abuse & intolerance in relation to minorities groups.
- ✦ To educate, motivate & advice media houses for creation of such enabling environment & develop certain mechanism to monitor & accountable discouraging irresponsible & inaccurate reporting during violence & hate speeches against religious minorities in the country.
- ✦ To educate the citizens especially civil society in relation to miss conduct, discrimination & biased against the minorities in Pakistan to convey a message that our country & religion both are protecting religious minorities with all respect.

#### PAKISTAN MUSLIM LEAGUE-NAWAZ (PML-N) MANIFESTO ON MINORITIES RIGHTS:

The manifesto of PML-N is reflecting some pivotal provisions in relation to minorities' rights. Detail of certain provisions is listed as:

- ✦ The important provision highlighted by the manifesto of PML-N is considering of all citizens of the country as equal citizens within the state & all the minorities groups have equal rights parallel with Muslim communities of the country. Non-kind of discrimination on would occur on the basis of color, race, creed, cast, language or gender within Pakistan.
- ✦ All non Muslims Pakistani have the basic & fundamental rights for full freedom of Worship along with freedom of freely profess & practice their own religion and culture within the country.
- ✦ Pakistan Muslim League strongly believes to demonstrate solidarity with minorities groups in relation to their contribution in the strengthening & building of the nation.
- ✦ Pakistan Muslim League acknowledged the contribution & Sacrifices of all minorities groups in freedom movement of Pakistan along with their contribution in developing harmony, peace & prosperity in Pakistan.
- ✦ Pakistan Muslim League addresses very essential issue in their manifesto that all essential steps would be adopted to avoid the misuse of Blasphemy Law in Pakistan.
- ✦ In the manifesto of Pakistan Muslim League –Nawaz, a very important point is raised that all the essential tools would be utilized in accordance with Law to prevent forced conversion of minorities groups in Pakistan.
- ✦ The most important provision in relation to minorities rights mentioned in the manifesto of PML-N is that religious minority's protection bill would be introduced to resolve the marital & other related issues of all minorities groups living in Pakistan.

*PML-N has a given a picture to integrate the minorities rights in their manifesto. It has been pointed out that almost all the minorities' rights as per the constitution of Pakistan may be addressed in the manifesto of PML-N. But a very important & most essential problem related to minorities of Pakistan is that non kind of reflection has been observed relation to minorities education system & educational issues in the manifesto of PML-N*

- ✦ The manifesto of PML-N addresses & stresses very critical & crucial issue of minorities groups in Pakistan. The highlighted issue is that within the public & private institutions of Pakistan, all the material related to minorities groups spreading hate among the citizens of the country would be abolished from the syllabus of schools, colleges & universities. This would result in no discrimination between Muslim & non-Muslim communities in the country.
- ✦ The most important issue addressed by the manifesto of PML-N is that to make sure the execution & implementation of 5% quota of Government jobs reserved for non-Muslim communities for the betterment of their livelihood & economic empowerment.
- ✦ The critical & of a great importance issue reflected & highlighted by PML-N manifesto is the appointment of a non-Muslim Chairman for Evacuee Trust Property Board (ETPB) and would also appoint non-Muslim as Head of Various Departments related to the matter concerning all religious minorities in Pakistan. This is a prime intervention highlighted by PML-N in their manifesto.

#### PAKISTAN TEHREEK-E-INSAF (PTI) MANIFESTO ON MINORITIES RIGHTS:

The manifesto of PTI is reflecting some important but much summarized provisions in relation to minorities' rights. Detail of such provisions is listed as:

- ✦ Pakistan Tehreek Insaf mentioned minorities' rights in their manifesto with very short statement that all minorities groups would be given balanced & equal opportunities along with protection as per law under the constitution of Pakistan.
- ✦ Pakistan Tehreek Insaf reflected in their manifesto that all the minorities groups in Pakistan would be allowed & protected in order to practice their religion as defined under the constitution of Pakistan.
- ✦ Pakistan Tehreek Insaf highlighted minorities' rights through their manifesto that there would be no kind of tolerance for any abuse of or threat to or violence against any minority group in the country.
- ✦ Pakistan Tehreek Insaf stressed minorities' rights through their manifesto that PTI would ensure due rights of all minorities groups in Pakistan within all public institutions.
- ✦ Pakistan Tehreek Insaf focused minorities' rights through their manifesto that there would be no hate speeches against any minority community & all the citizens of the country would be given equal economic opportunity within the institutions of state.

*Mr. Qasim Khan Soori, Provincial President of PTI-Balochistan, expressed his views about minorities' rights as reflected in their manifesto. Mr. Soori said that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf would treat and focused every citizen of the country with equal parameters regardless race, color, creed or religion. PTI strongly condemns any kind of discrimination among the citizens of Pakistan.*

## PAKISTAN MUSLIM LEAGUE-QAID-E-AZAM (PML-Q) MANIFESTO ON MINORITIES RIGHTS:

The manifesto of PML-Q is highlighting some major provisions in relation to minorities' rights. Details of such provisions are mentioned as:

- ✚ The essential provision mentioned by the manifesto of PML-Q is considering of all citizens of the country as equal citizens within the country & all the minorities groups have equal rights just like other majority citizens of the country. No discrimination on the basis of color, race, cast, language or gender within Pakistan.
- ✚ PML-Q considers religious minorities of the country as equal citizens of the country. The minorities will have full freedom of Worship & the right to employment in all sectors of the state. Their religious Holidays will be collaborated national with the help of the state.
- ✚ The PLM-Q also appreciates the constructive role played by the minorities' missionary institutions in importing quality education in the country.
- ✚ Pakistan Muslim League-Q identified very important issue in their manifesto that all necessary steps would be taken to avoid the misuse of Blasphemy Law in Pakistan.
- ✚ Pakistan Muslim League -Q mentioned in their manifesto a very important issue that all the important tools would be utilized in accordance with Law to prevent forced conversion of religious minorities groups in Pakistan.

*PML-Q has very less, shortest & summarized coverage & reflection of Minorities rights in their manifesto. There is minimum discussion on the education & educational problems related to minorities in the manifesto of PML-Q.*

## JAMMAT-E-ISLAMI (JI) MANIFESTO ON MINORITIES RIGHTS:

The manifesto of Jammat-e-Islami (JI) is addressing some essential & important provisions in relation to minorities' rights. Detail of certain provisions is listed as:

- ✚ Jammat-e-Islami (JI) mentioned minorities' rights in their manifesto with very comprehensive & integrated manner with such statement that Minorities are an indispensable part of our society. We will ensure & protect constitutional & Legal Rights of all minorities.
- ✚ Jammat-e-Islami (JI) mentioned & highlighted in their manifesto that in personal matters, Religious laws & traditions of Minorities will take precedence. Minorities will enjoy rights to education, Employment & other civil Liberties. Place of worship of all minorities will be protected & respected. Any discrimination, injustice or Bias towards minorities will be discouraged.
- ✚ In the manifesto of Jammat-e-Islami (JI) it has been mentioned clearly that special respect, protection & honor would be given to the worship places

*Good coverage by Jamiat-e-Islami of Minorities Rights. This is a best example & a mile stone fixed for other political Parties in the country. They must follow the points mentioned by Jamiat-e-Islami in their manifesto.*

of all minorities groups in the country. Their Worship Places would be provided electricity, Gas & water & all these allied services would be provided free of cost to the respective minorities groups in Pakistan.

- ✚ It has been mentioned & addressed very visibly in the manifesto of Jammat-e-Islami (JI) that all the minorities groups would be compensated against their fractional, unfair & indecent treatment in the society.
- ✚ Manifesto of Jammat-e-Islami (JI) also reflects the right of vote to be polled or cast to support & elect their own representatives for the both the provincial Assemblies & national Legislative assemblies of Pakistan.

#### JAMIATULMA-E-ISLAM-F (JUI-F) MANIFESTO ON MINORITIES RIGHTS:

The manifesto of Jamiat Ulma-e-Islam-F (JUI-F) is addressing some important provisions regarding minorities' rights. Details of such important provisions are listed as:

- ✚ The manifesto of Jamiat Ulma-e-Islam-F (JUI-F) comprises very short & summarized statement in relation to minorities' rights. As per the manifesto of Jamiat Ulma-e-Islam-F (JUI-F) there are very less coverage of the minorities rights.
- ✚ Jamiat Ulma-e-Islam-F (JUI-F) manifesto is highlighting tow important points about the minorities' rights in Pakistan, These points are listed as.
- ✚ Jamiat Ulma-e-Islam-F (JUI-F) manifesto addresses that there an isolated course would be offered to the minorities students in the educational institutes but the mentioned course has not been specified.
- ✚ Jamiat Ulma-e-Islam-F (JUI-F) manifesto mentioned Minorities groups of the country by a specific terminology known as "other people" of the country.
- ✚ Jamiat Ulma-e-Islam-F (JUI-F) manifesto simply cover minorities rights with very short cut statement that all the minorities would be treated equally in the country.

*Mr. Abdul Wahid Siddiqui "Ex-provincial minister for education" from Jamiat Ulma-e-Islam Fazal Rehman JUI-F stated that JUI-F strongly emphasized on minorities' rights to be addressed and focused with great concentration. For the said purpose JUI-F taken practical steps and nominated, selected and deputed a female minority member (Asia Nasir- from Christian community) for National Assembly of Pakistan*

## NATIONAL PARTY (NP) MANIFESTO ON MINORITIES RIGHTS:

The manifesto of National Party (NP) is focusing some essential provisions in relation to minorities' rights. Details of certain essential provisions are listed as:

- ✚ The manifesto of National Party (NP) comprises very comprehensive & integrated coverage of minorities' rights in the province. The slogan & manifesto of the party mainly focuses on secular thinking in relation minorities' rights & believe that all groups of the society must be free & independent to practice & pursue religious activities, thoughts & thinking according to their own religion throughout the province.
- ✚ The manifesto of National Party-NP reflects that all the minorities groups living in the country must be treated with equal parameters parallel with the majority population of the province. All the minorities have to be given their due rights as per the constitution of Pakistan.
- ✚ The National Party –NP manifesto emphasizes on the secularism to be promoted regarding minorities rights in the country so that all the citizens of the country would be facilitated & benefited equally as per 1973 constitution of Pakistan.
- ✚ The manifesto of National Party-NP is also stressing on the rights of freedom regarding one man one vote along with freedom of expression of their believes as per their religion. All the citizens of the country may be free & independent to continue their worship as per their religion in every corner of the country without any hesitation & fear.

*“Balance coverage in order to streamline the minorities' rights in the province. But educational system is not addressed in the manifesto of National Party-NP”.*

## PASHTOONKHWAMILLIAWAMI PARTY (PKMAP) MANIFESTO ON MINORITIES RIGHTS:

The manifesto of Pashtoonkhwa Milli Awami Party (PkMAP) is addressing some important provisions regarding minorities' rights. Details of such essential provisions are listed as:

- ✚ The manifesto of Pashtoonkhwa Milli Awami Party (PkMAP) is pertaining important & necessary points regarding minorities' rights in the province. Manifesto of the party mainly focuses only on minorities' rights & believe that all members of the society belongs to any group or any religion living in the country may be treated equally just like other citizens belongs to majority population of the country & they must be independent to worship according to their own religion throughout the province.
- ✚ The manifesto of Pashtoonkhwa Milli Awami Party (PkMAP) stresses that all the minorities groups living in the province may have the rights to live freely & to adopt their religion as per the teaching of their religion. Protection & development of all groups/Population belongs to any language or race residing in Pashtoon areas of Balochistan would be the prime responsibility of Pashtoonkhwa Milli Awami Party.
- ✚ The Pashtoonkhwa Milli Awami Party-PkMAP manifesto addresses the minorities' rights in relation to education that all the minorities are to be treated as per the requirements of their religion. They must be entertained as per their needs in all educational institutes in the province.

*“Mr. Usman Kakar, Provincial President Pashtoonkhwa Milli Awami Party, was with the opinion during the consultative session that their party has a great focus on minorities' rights. Although non-kind of great coverage has been reflected by their manifesto but they have shown practically more than reflect ion of minorities rights in their manifesto, it is evident from their minority member of the legislative assembly in Balochistan namely Mr. William John Barkat, MPA - Pk MAP”*

## AWAMI NATIONAL PARTY (ANP) MANIFESTO ON MINORITIES RIGHTS:

The manifesto of Awami National Party-ANP is reflecting some major provisions in relation to minorities' rights. Detail of certain provisions is listed as:

- ✚ The important provision within the manifesto of Awami National Party-ANP is creation of equal opportunities through proper legislative process within the legislative assemblies both at Provincial & national Level.
- ✚ Awami National Party-ANP has reflected in their manifesto a strong & balanced statement in relation to minorities' rights in Pakistan. According to their manifesto, all citizens of the country regardless race, color, creed & religion, have the same rights & would be facilitated/benefited equally like other major population of the country.

*Awami National Party-ANP/ National Party-NP are on the same page in relation to minorities, rights. Their statement and wisdom about minorities, right is that “secularism is the only solution to address, focus and highlight minorities, rights in Pakistan”*

- ✦ Awami National Party-ANP is strong believer of the faith that all citizens living in the country have the same rights & could be treated equally parallel to major population of the country. There may not be any sort of discrimination among the members of the society on the bases of color, race or religion.
- ✦ The manifesto of Awami National Party-ANP is strongly emphasizing on secular thinking among the members of the society without mentioning the religion. All facilities of life may be equally provided to every community members on Humanitarian grounds.

## ROLE OF POLITICAL PARTIES & MINORITIES RIGHTS IN BALOCHISTAN:

Minorities in Pakistan are playing their pivotal role in the overall growth and development of the country because they are essential part of the country's economy. Minorities in Pakistan are facing social, economic, legal & political discriminations & religious intolerance in Pakistan. The population of Pakistan in 2008 was estimated 163.3million, whereas, according to 1998 census the population of the country was 137 million. In 137 million Muslim populations were 96.16 % and Non-Muslim were 3.84 % of the total Population. Minorities in Pakistan are facing several problems & having number of issues. Some the most important & very critical issues are that they are citizens of Pakistan but are considered & treated as second citizen of the country having no equal participation in local, regional & national politics. Minorities are not treated as equal shareholders in the government employment at local, provincial & federal level. While in educational institutions like in schools & colleges, non-kind of alternate subject (alternate of Islamiyat) is being taught & offered to student belongs to minorities' communities especially in Balochistan. Minorities' members are easily to be kidnapped for ransom particularly in remote areas of Balochistan. Keeping the aforesaid facts & figures about minorities in prevailing environment of the province, it has been mentioned that several political parties are existed & serving the rural as well as urban communities through political struggle for minorities rights in Balochistan. Most essential, important, famous & active political parties are listed as Pakistan Muslim League, PML-N. Pakistan Muslim League-Qaid-Azam, PML-Q, Pakistan People's Party Parliamentarian PPP-P, National Party-NP, Pashtoonkhwa Milli Awami-Party-PkMAP, Jamiat-Ulma-Islam-F (JUI-F). Jamiat-Ulma-Islam-Nazaryathi (JUI-N). Jamiat Islami. Pakistan Tehreek Insaf-(PTI). Balochistan National Party (BNP). Jamoori Watan Party (JWP) & Hazara Democratic Party (HDP)

Some of the political parties are with a great coverage of minorities' rights in their manifestos like Jamiat-Islami, National Party, Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) & Pakistan people's Party (PPP). However, Awami National Party has mentioned minorities' rights in their manifesto with balance & normal manner. While, some political parties like Pashtoonkhwa Milli Awami Party, Muthaheda Quami Movement and Pakistan Muslim League (Qaid Azam) have mentioned minorities rights in their manifestos very less & with minimum coverage, which could not fulfill the requirements of essential population of our society in our country. Two religion oriented political parties namely Jamiat Ulma Islam (F) & (Nazaryathi) have pointed out two amazing, confusing & unique statements in their manifestos. Jamiat Ulma Islam (F) has mentioned that all the minorities may have the equal rights in Pakistan & for entire minorities communities in all Educational Institutes of Christians Machineries & other non Muslims minorities, an official compulsory

course would be offered for teaching” An ambiguity & uncertainty has been created by sharing this kind of information by JUI-F in their manifesto. It is not clear from the statement that what sort of course would be offered either “Ethics” or “Islamiat”. Similarly, Jamiat Ulma Islam (Nazaryathi) mentioned & reflected in their manifesto a unique & interesting statement that there must be permission for none Muslims (Minorities) to operate their educational institutions but both Muslim male & female student would not be allowed for admissions in the same institutions. This is very panic statement & would be creating unanimously environment for the minorities who are jointly living with Muslim communities in all areas of the province. Pakistan Tehreek Insaf just mentioned that all the minorities are the equal share holding citizens of the Pakistan. Jamoori Watan Party & Balochistan National Party has reflected a balanced & integrated statement in their manifestos about minorities’ rights.

The above mentioned facts & figures about minorities’ rights as reflected by different regional & national political parties are not fulfilling the actual & due rights as mentioned in the constitution of Pakistan. As per the constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan-1973, (Fundamental Rights & Principles of Policy), Article-36: Protection of minorities: “The state shall safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of Minorities, including their due representation in the federal and provincial services.” However, these political parties regional & national both are claiming for the strong believer of minorities rights to be protected at any cost & they shown their concern time to time according to the situation created by some elements regarding deprivation of minorities from their rights in the country as well as in the province of Balochistan.

#### CONSULTATION FOR REVIEW WITH POLITICAL PARTIES:

Center for Peace & Development-Balochistan is actively & enthusiastically engaged to address, emphasize, concentrate & focus on minorities rights form a long time in the province of Balochistan. Keeping the pace of progress of such interventions, exclusive sessions were conducted with the mainstream political Parties of the country at provincial level. The objective & motto of the sessions were to share the compiled report (Draft) with the representatives of certain political parties, pertaining & highlighting minorities’ rights as reflected by their manifestos. Representatives of several mainstream political parties participated in the sessions concerned. Conclusion & crux of the respective discussions are explained in detail as,

Mr. Nazir Ahmed Kakar, representative of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz explained the view point of PML-N & recorded such statement that PML-N considers all minorities as equal citizens of the country. They have the equal rights in all sectors & walk of life throughout the country. Pakistan Muslim League is with the opinion that the rights of all minorities would be protected with all respect, in case of any sort of violation, a complete & comprehensive protection cover would be provided to them in every corner of the country.

Mr. Qasim Suri, Member of the Core Committee of Pakistan Tehreek Insaf –PTI intimated the PTI is the custodian of minorities’ rights in Pakistan. Pakistan Tehreek Insaf does not believe on race, language & color. The basic motto of the party is that all the minorities have equal rights & all the opportunities would be equally provided to entire minorities groups in the country. Although In the manifesto of PTI,



there is none kind of statement reflecting such claim. The manifesto of PTI about minorities' rights as reflected with such statement that "Pakistan has multi cultural population including Minorities & this strength could positively be utilized for the betterment of Pakistan"

The representative of Pakistan People's Party-PPP, Mr. Rozi Khan Kakar (Senator) claimed that Pakistan People's Party is the sole political party in the country, who accepted all sort of basic & essential rights of all minorities groups. While PPP has always been focused & concentrated on the basic & fundamental rights of all ethnic & minorities groups in the country. While the statement has been reflected & verified by the manifesto of PPP as well. Manifest of PPP has a strong & great coverage about the minorities' rights with all essential & basic points as reflected & highlighted with detail.

The representative of Jamiat Ulma Islam-Fazal Rehman (JUI-F), Mr. Abdul Wahid, Deputy Provincial Secretary, added that although their party manifesto is comprises of purely religious base & reflecting only the Muslims community matters. But they have nominated members for both national & provincial legislative assemblies on specified minorities' seats. Certain MNA,s & MPA,s are regular & active members of their JUI-F. But the manifesto of JUI-F has not reflecting such statement. The only point mentioned in their manifesto is that a compulsory course would be offered for minorities students in their educational institutes.

Mr. Ghulam Nabi Mari, Deputy Organizer of Balochistan National Party-BNP presented the agenda of BNP about minorities rights during the sessions. The conclusion of the statement of the representative of BNP was that BNP is a secular & progressive political party & strongly believes on equal rights of all minorities groups irrespective of race, language, color & Creed. BNP is the strong believer of the faith that the terminology known as "Minority" is not a suitable for such communities in our country. They may not be treated as second citizens of the country.

Dr. Yaseen Baloch, Provincial President of National Party-NP, mentioned that national party considers all the minorities as equal citizens of the country. He expressed the motto of National Party about minorities' rights that all the minorities have been given specific preference in relation to their reserved & specific rights under the provincial authority. National party is custodian political party of all minorities' rights in the province of Balochistan. The same statement is also verified by their manifesto as they have mentioned & reflected all the basic rights of all minorities groups.

The representative of Awami National Party-ANP, Mr. Abdul Malik Panezai-Central Joint Secretary, recorded the policy of their party with certain statement that as Awami national Party is a secular political Party, so they never accepted any kind of discrimination among all citizens of the country. Awami National Party is the custodian of complete freedom of all religions in Pakistan. The basic rights of all minorities are reflected by the manifesto of ANP as "No discrimination of any kind based on race, creed, gender or religion & every citizen of the country shall have equal rights in political, economic & social fields. Every citizen shall have the right to hold any public office without any discrimination. The essence of security will be guaranteed among the religious & ethnic minorities"

Mr. Usman Khan Kakar, Provincial President of Pashtoonkhwa Milli Awami Party-PMAP explained the policy & objectives of minorities' rights as reflected by their manifesto with the following statement,

“Who so ever living in the country has the equal rights regardless race, language, color & creed”. PMAP is focusing one point agenda in relation to minorities rights that is all citizens of the country have equal rights protected under the constitutions of Pakistan.

The representative of Jamoori Watan Party-JWP, Mr. Naveed Ahmed, expressed the views of JWP that their political party accepts the equal rights for minorities’ groups & condemned all kind of violations against any minority community in the country. JWP is struggling for the restorations of more rights for all minorities groups living in the country. This is the history of JWP that they had nominated minorities’ candidates for general seats of the national & provincial legislative bodies & they were elected on same seats for the bodies concerned.

## CONCLUSION:

The role of the Political Parties is very crucial, critical & more essential in order to highlight minorities’ rights in their manifestos. It has been observed that several political parties are claiming through their literature, political gatherings & open discussions that they are custodians of minorities’ rights in Pakistan. But practically after thorough evaluation, assessment & examination of their written documents in the form of their manifestos, non-kind of such statements are reflecting to claim the minorities’ rights in almost majority of the manifestos of the political parties. However, certain political parties are very flexible to mention & highlight minorities’ rights in their manifestos with clear & prominent statements like Jamiat-e-Islami Pakistan, National Party, Pakistan People’s Party and Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz). They have a great coverage with integrated approach to mention & highlight minorities’ rights in their manifestos. Awami National Party reflected & mentioned in their manifesto a balanced, normal & comprehensive statement regarding minorities’ rights. These above mentioned five political parties highlighted, pointed out & essentially stressed on the basic & fundamental rights of the minorities in their manifestos with a great coverage that all the minorities are equal shareholders in the economic, social & political affairs of the state. Non kind of discrimination would not be tolerated against all minorities in the country. They must be treated as honorable, respectable, equal share holders’ citizens in all perks & privileges available in the country. They must feel free & independent as respectable citizens of the state. They would be having the rights of free worship & their religious events in their respective places.

Two political parties both at domestic & national level have a great contribution in the political stability & restoration of democratic environment in the country namely Jamiat Ulma Islam (F) & (Nazaryathi) have mentioned in their manifestos an un-cleared statement regarding Minorities rights. They have mentioned that a compulsory course would be offered for minorities educational institutions but still ambiguity is pertaining. They have not mentioned the compulsory course either that would be “Islamiat” or “Ethics”. While JUI-Nazaryathi mentioned & reflected in their manifesto that all minorities would be allowed to operate their educational Institutes but Muslim students would not be allowed to be enrolled in the same educational Institutes. This kind of policies would create a gap & distance among the citizens of the country.

Whereas some political parties have just mentioned minorities rights in their manifestos with very little coverage & their minorities are deprived from their due rights as floated & mentioned by the constitution of Pakistan. Muthaheda Quami Movement, Pakistan Muslim League (Q), Pashtoonkhwa Milli Awami Party & Pakistan Tehreek Insaf has just mentioned that minorities are equal shareholders in Pakistan. This is not sufficient to address & highlight minorities' rights as these political parties are actively participating in domestic & national politics & political affairs of the state. While Balochistan National Party & Jamoori Watan Party has very less even no coverage of the minorities rights in their manifestos. They have just simply mentioned & reflected the all citizens basic & fundamental rights would be protected & guaranteed through political struggle & they would be freely practicing their believes in their respective religious institutions in Balochistan. Non kind of discussions on the minorities' educations & the subjects to be offered for their educational institutions has been covered & reflected by their manifestos by such local or domestic political Parties in Balochistan.