



UK Aid Programmes: Human Rights in Pakistan QSD on 2 July 2019

This briefing identifies relevant reports and useful documents, including recent parliamentary materials and press articles, which may be of assistance to Members in preparing for the following debate:

Lord Alton of Liverpool to ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the relationship between their aid programmes and human rights and the treatment of minorities in Pakistan, and in particular the case of Asia Bibi.

Copies of the materials are available for collection from the Library.

Key Information

- Foreign and Commonwealth Office, [Human Rights and Democracy: the 2018 Foreign and Commonwealth Office Report](#), 5 June 2019, CP 104, pp 2–22 and 51–2

Excerpts from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) report outlining the human rights situation in the world in 2018 and the thematic priorities of the FCO. The report highlights denial of the right to freedom of religion or belief as “a matter of increasing international concern”, and notes the targeted attacks against religious minority groups on the basis of religion in Pakistan. The report also details “human rights priority countries”, of which Pakistan is one.

- Department for International Development, [Development Tracker: Pakistan Summary](#), accessed 25 June 2019; and [Country Profile: Pakistan](#), 9 July 2018

Department for International Development (DFID) development tracker and country profile for Pakistan. The development tracker provides information on the aid provided to Pakistan including: details of sections of the population which have received aid; the sectors targeted, such as education or health; and the projected budget to 2021/22. The country profile outlines why DFID is investing in the country, what UK aid has achieved and what UK aid expects to deliver looking ahead.

- Human Rights Watch, [World Report 2019: Pakistan: Events in 2018](#), accessed 25 June 2019

Excerpts from the report which focus on the situation in Pakistan including details of freedom of religion and belief and the case of Asia Bibi.

- Council of the European Union, [Council Conclusions on Pakistan](#), 19 November 2018

Conclusions adopted by the Council of the European Union regarding elections in the country in July 2018 and promotion and protection of human rights in Pakistan.

- United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner, '[Pakistan Must Repeal Discriminatory Measures Leading to Persecution of Ahmadis, say UN Experts](#)', 25 July 2018

Outlines comments from UN human rights experts regarding the situation of the Ahmadi community in Pakistan.

- Amnesty International, '[Sri Lanka: Halt Forced Returns of Pakistani Religious Minorities](#)', 14 June 2019

Calls from Amnesty International for Sri Lanka to halt the forcible return of asylum seekers to their country of origin. The article highlights the situation for religious minority groups from Pakistan who have sought shelter in Sri Lanka.

- A Cirio et al, '[Religious Minorities in Pakistan](#)', 13 May 2019

A report compiled by Members of the European Parliament Alberto Cirio, Fulvio Martusciello, Ryszard Czarnecki, Indrek Tarand and Heinz K Becker. The report "aims to highlight the plight of religious minorities in Pakistan. It places special emphasis on the dwindling population, institutionalised discrimination and lack of opportunities for religious minority groups".

Parliamentary Debate, Statements and Questions

- Oral Question on '[Pakistan: Aid for Persecuted Minorities](#)', HL Hansard, 6 June 2019, cols 173–6
- A selection of written questions from both Houses; [261522](#) (13 June 2019); [259375](#) (6 June 2019); [HL15872](#) (4 June 2019); [HL15822](#) (4 June 2019); [HL15820](#) (4 June 2019); [HL15757](#) (28 May 2019); [HL15662](#) (23 May 2019); [HL15525](#) (17 May 2019); [HL15526](#) (16 May 2019); [252500](#) (13 May 2019); and [249952](#) (13 May 2019).

Press Articles and Comment

- BBC News, '[Asia Bibi: Christian Leaves Pakistan After Blasphemy Acquittal](#)', 8 May 2019
- Harriet Sherwood, '[Asia Bibi Begins New Life in Canada—But Her Ordeal May Not Be Over](#)', *Guardian*, 8 May 2019
- David Oldroyd-Bolt, '[How Can the Government Pour Billions into Countries that Ignore the Unspeakable Persecution of Christians](#)', *Telegraph* (£), 11 April 2019
- Karen McVeigh, '[MPs Voice Fears over £1.28 billion Aid Fund Amid Claims of Links to Torture](#)', *Guardian*, 11 December 2018

Further Information

- House of Commons Library, '[UK Aid: Frequently Asked Questions](#)', 21 May 2019

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