



BY COURIER

Ref: PILAP/HO/2020/346

July 08, 2020

**Punjab School Education Department
Through its Secretary,
Old Planning and Development (P & D) Building
Civil Secretariat
Lahore**

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION UNDER THE RIGHT OF ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT, 2017

Dear Madam,

The Public Interest Law Association of Pakistan (PILAP) is a public interest association registered under the laws of Pakistan and is concerned with addressing issues of public interest in accordance to the Fundamental Rights guaranteed by the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. It respectfully submits as under: -

1. That the details of the authorized person on behalf of PILAP are as under: -
2. That attention is drawn to the recent issue of harassment of students at the hands of teachers and other staff at a private school in Lahore. This is not the first such incident that has come to light and is part of an ongoing problem faced by students at most schools.
3. That if victims of abuse and harassment at schools are students, their only recourse to justice is lodging an FIR, through a representative in case of a child, under the applicable provisions of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC). This process, which it itself can be intimidating for a young victim of abuse, would be followed by a trial, further bringing them into public limelight at the cost of their privacy and increasing the potential for further abuse and stigmatization.

PUBLIC INTEREST LAW ASSOCIATION OF PAKISTAN

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4. That, in light of the above, PILAP respectfully submits this Application requesting for information under the right granted to all citizens of Pakistan under the Right of Access to Information Act 2017 as under: -
- i) What policy measures, if any, has the Punjab School Education Department taken to ensure that students are safeguarded against harassment and abuse at the hands of teachers, staff and fellow students?
 - ii) What percentage of schools in Punjab, both private and public, have harassment policies in place?
 - iii) What are the proposed mechanisms that the Punjab School Education Department seeks to put in place in order to ensure that students are not abused or harassed while at school?
 - iv) What suitable recourse to justice would victims of abuse and harassment, especially children, have against offenders, that would also ensure a measure of privacy for them?
5. That in the circumstances, PILAP would be grateful for a reply at the earliest.

Thank you.

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