

**Question for written answer E-001583/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Violence against women on the rise in Pakistan

Pakistan is ranked by the Global Gender Gap Index 2018 as the sixth most dangerous country in the world for women and the second worst in the world (ranked 148th) in terms of gender equality.

The number of recorded cases of sexual crimes and domestic violence is rapidly rising.

Although Pakistani society discourages reporting, the NGO White Ribbon Pakistan reports that 47 034 women faced sexual violence, over 15 000 cases of honour crimes were registered, and more than 1 800 cases of domestic violence and over 5 500 kidnappings of women took place between 2004 and 2016.

According to media reports, more than 51 241 cases of violence against women were reported between January 2011 and June 2017. Conviction rates, meanwhile, remain low, with the accused in just 2.5 % of all reported cases ultimately being convicted by the courts.

Given this systemic problem, the failure to protect women, and the concerns highlighted in the recent GSP+ country assessment, what discussions are being held on the issue during bilateral talks between the EU and Pakistan?

Pakistan is a recipient of GSP+ and has ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. However, in the light of the alarming statistics on discrimination and violence against women, will the Commission review Pakistan's GSP+ status?

Supporter¹

¹ This question is supported by a Member other than the authors: Paolo Borchia (ID)