

REPORT



**STANDING COMMITTEE NO. 24 ON ZAKAT, USHR,
SOCIAL WELFARE, SPECIAL EDUCATION AND
WOMEN EMPOWERMENT DEPARTMENT**

MR. ZUBAIR KHAN, MPA/CHAIRPERSON

PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT, KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA.

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE NO. 24 ON ZAKAT, USHR, SOCIAL WELFARE, SPECIAL EDUCATION AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT DEPARTMENT ON “THE KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA VAGRANCY (CONTROL AND REHABILITATION) BILL, 2026”.

I, Mr. Zubair Khan, MPA/Chairperson of the Standing Committee No. 24 on Zakat, Ushr, Social Welfare, Special Education and Women Empowerment Department have the honor to present this report on “*the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Vagrancy (Control and Rehabilitation) Bill, 2026*” [Government Bill], (F/A) as introduced in the Provincial Assembly of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and referred to the Committee on 20th April 2026 for thorough examination.

2. The following Members of the Committee attended the meeting: -

(1)	Mr. Aftab Alam, Minister for Law, Parliamentary Affairs and Human Rights, Department.	Ex-officio Member
(2)	Mr. Sami Ullah Khan, MPA	Member
(3)	Mr. Muhammad Riaz, MPA (PK-95)	Member
(4)	Ms. Nelofar Babar, MPA	Member
(5)	Ms. Shehla Bano, MPA	Member

Views of the Minister: -

3. Mr. Aftab Alam Afridi, Minister for Law, Parliamentary Affairs and Human Rights Department, apprised the Committee that the menace of beggary has been steadily increasing across Pakistan, particularly in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He observed that this trend is not only a source of embarrassment but also contributes to the rise in criminal activities. He further stated that the existing legal framework is inadequate and requires amendments in line with contemporary needs and developments. Consequently, the proposed Bill has been introduced and referred to the Standing Committee so that any shortcomings, if identified, would be duly addressed.

Legislative Intent:-

4. While explaining the purpose of the “*the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Vagrancy (Control and Rehabilitation) Bill, 2026*” Mr. Sharif Hussain, Secretary, Social Welfare Department, informed the Committee that organized groups are presently using beggary as a profession, with their networks expanding not only across Pakistan but also into other countries. He stated that, in order to eradicate this menace, the Government had decided to introduce a comprehensive and well-structured law, aligned with contemporary requirements, to address and eliminate all existing shortcomings. He further observed that this abhorrent practice is increasingly assuming the form of a business, wherein women and children are also being exploited.

5. He further stated that it had been proposed to undertake a comprehensive update of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Vagrancy Restraint Act, 2020, in order to align it with contemporary requirements and challenges. The proposed reforms aimed to ensure the protection of vulnerable individuals from exploitation by organized begging networks, with particular emphasis on preventing and addressing child beggary. It was further stated that the revised legal framework would provide for explicit and stringent punishments for offenders involved in such unlawful activities. Moreover, in proposed Bill, measures would be introduced to strengthen the capacity and effectiveness of rehabilitation centers, ensuring the provision of adequate care, support, and skill development opportunities for persons engaged in beggary. The overarching objective of these reforms was to facilitate their social and economic reintegration, enabling them to become productive members of society.

6. Mr. Umara Khan, Additional Secretary, Social Welfare Department, briefed the Committee regarding the Bill and stated that it had been proposed to adopt a rights-based and rehabilitation-focused approach in addressing the issue of beggary, with a view to ensuring both protection and accountability within the legal framework. He further stated that the proposed legislation sought to expand and clarify legal definitions, including those relating to organized and forced beggary, in order to effectively address emerging forms of exploitation. It was also informed that a Provincial Steering Committee would be established to ensure enhanced policy coordination, implementation, and oversight. Moreover, the framework would clearly distinguish between vulnerable individuals in need of protection and organized criminal networks engaged in exploitative practices.

7. He further apprised the Committee that specific provisions would be introduced to define child beggary and to ensure comprehensive protection of children from such exploitation. It was also stated that the law would prescribe clear and stringent penalties against those involved in exploitative begging activities. Furthermore, emphasis would be placed on the reintegration of individuals engaged in beggary into society through structured rehabilitation and skill development programs. In this regard, a dedicated, non-lapsable Rehabilitation Fund would be established to support such initiatives. Adequate provisions for after-care and livelihood support would also be ensured to facilitate a smooth transition and to prevent relapse into beggary.

8. Later on, the Committee considered the Bill clause by clause and no amendment(s) were made by the Committee.

9. The Committee unanimously recommended that the Bill at “F/A”, as introduced in the House on 20th April, 2026 may be taken into consideration at once.



(ZUBAIR KHAN)
CHAIRPERSON,

Standing Committee No. 24 on Zakat, Ushr,
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