

# SENATE OF PAKISTAN



## REPORT OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INTERIOR

ON

[THE CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2023]  
PRIVATE MEMBER BILL INTRODUCED BY  
SENATOR KAMRAN MICHAEL ON 30<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2023

PRESENTED BY

SENATOR MOHSIN AZIZ  
CHAIRMAN SSC ON INTERIOR

## SENATE SECRETARIAT

**SUBJECT: REPORT OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INTERIOR  
ON THE CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2023.**

I, Senator Mohsin Aziz, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Interior, have the honor to present report of the Committee on a Bill further to amend the Christian Marriage Act, 1872 [The Christian Marriage (Amendment) Bill, 2023]. This is a Private Member Bill introduced by Senator Kamran Michael in the Senate sitting held on 30<sup>th</sup> January, 2023 and referred to the Senate Standing Committee on Interior for consideration and report.

2. The composition of the Committee is as under: -

Senator Mohsin Aziz	Chairman
Senator Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani	Member
Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar	Member
Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri	Member
Senator Moula Bux Chandio	Member
Senator Saifullah Abro	Member
Senator Rana Maqbool Ahmad	Member
Senator Faisal Saleem Rehman	Member
Senator Shahadat Awan	Member
Senator Faisal Subzwari	Member
Senator Fawzia Arshad	Member
Senator Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti	Member
Senator Dilawar Khan	Member
Senator Kamil Ali Agha	Member
<u>Minister for Interior</u>	<u>Ex-Officio Member</u>



3. The Committee included the Bill in its agenda for the meetings of the Committee held on 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2023, 13<sup>th</sup> April, 2023 and 8<sup>th</sup> June, 2023. On all the three occasions, the Mover did not appear before the Committee without any leave of absence. Therefore, in the meeting of the Committee held on 8<sup>th</sup> June, 2023, in terms of Standing Order No.2.23, the Committee considered the Bill in absence of the Mover. Standing Order No.2.23 reads as under:

“Where the Mover whose legislative or non-legislative business is referred from the House to the Committee, fails to attend two consecutive committee meetings in which his/her business is taken up on the agenda, the Committee may, if the Mover absents himself from the third consecutive committee meeting, despite telephonic intimation and Notices, the said matter may be taken up and disposed off in absence of the Mover and a report in this context be laid in the House within the stipulated time period for which the matter was originally referred.”

4. On 8<sup>th</sup> June, 2023, the meeting was attended by the following members:

The meeting was attended by the following Members:

1. Senator Mohsin Aziz

Chairman

2. Senator Shahadat Awan

Member

3. Senator Kamil Ali Agha

Member

4. Senator Faisal Saleem Rehman

Member

5. Senator Rana Maqbool Ahmad

Member

6. Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri

Member

5. The ICT Administration supported the proposed amendment as the Bill is consistent with the other laws in respect of age of child.

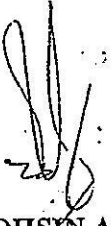
6. Senator Shahadat Awan was of the view that the age of the marriage for the females should be sixteen (16) and for the males it should be eighteen (18).



7. Secretary Interior was also of the view that marriage age for females should be sixteen (16) and for males it should be eighteen (18).

8. After detailed discussion, the Committee unanimously agreed with the suggestion of Senator Shahadat Awan and Secretary Interior and recommended that the House may pass the Bill as reported by the Committee with amendment. The Bill as introduced in the Senate is at Annexure-A and the Bill as reported by the Committee is at Annexure-B. The Committee also gave approval of presentation of report of the Committee to the House. Hence, this report is presented to the House.

  
(MUHAMMAD AZAM)  
Secretary Committee

  
(SENATOR MOHSIN AZIZ)  
Chairman Committee

Amended

**INTRODUCED ON 30.01.2023.**  
**[AS INTRODUCED IN THE SENATE]**

**A  
BILL**

*further to amend the Christian Marriage Act, 1872*

**WHEREAS** It is expedient further to amend the Christian Marriage Act, 1872 (XV of 1872) for the purposes hereinafter appearing;

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

**1. Short title, extent and commencement.-** (1) This Act shall be called the Christian Marriage (Amendment) Act, 2023.

(2) It extends to the Islamabad Capital Territory.

(3) It shall come into force at once.

**2. Amendment of section 60, Act XV of 1872. -** In the Christian Marriage Act, 1872 (XV of 1872), in section 60, in sub-section (1),-

(i) for the word "sixteen" the word, "eighteen", shall be substituted; and

(ii) for the word "thirteen" the word, "eighteen", shall be substituted.

**STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS**

It is the function of the state to protect the inviolable dignity of children as their basic human rights and to protect children being married before age of majority as their basic rights to education and other ancillary rights would otherwise be infringed. The main purpose of this enactment is to protect children from being sexually abused and to secure children their basic fundamental rights as enshrined in the Constitution of Pakistan of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the marriageable age in the other laws prevailing in the country.

**SENATOR KAMRAN MICHAEL  
MEMBER-IN-CHARGE**

[AS REPORTED BY THE COMMITTEE]

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(i) for the word "sixteen" the word "eighteen " shall be substituted; and

(ii) for the word "thirteen" the word "**sixteen** " shall be substituted.

SENATOR KAMRAN MICHAEL  
MEMBER IN CHARGE