



**SENATE OF PAKISTAN
HOUSE OF THE FEDERATION**

Report No.16/2026

REPORT OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INTERIOR & NARCOTICS CONTROL ON THE BILL FURTHER TO AMEND THE ANTI-RAPE (INVESTIGATION & TRIAL) ACT, 2021, "THE ANTI-RAPE (INVESTIGATION AND TRIAL) (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2026, MOVED BY SENATOR BUSHRA ANJUM BUTT, IN THE SENATE SITTING HELD ON 24TH AUGUST, 2026.

PRESENTED BY:

**SENATOR FAISAL SALEEM REHMAN
CHAIRMAN COMMITTEE**

SENATE SECRETARIAT

REPORT OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INTERIOR & NARCOTICS CONTROL ON "THE ANTI-RAPE (INVESTIGATION AND TRIAL) (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2026, MOVED BY SENATOR BUSHRA ANJUM BUTT, IN THE SENATE SITTING HELD ON 24TH AUGUST, 2026.

I, Senator Faisal Saleem Rehman, Chairman, Standing Committee on Interior and Narcotics Control, have the honor to present this report, on behalf of the Committee, on the Bill further to amend the Anti-Rape (Investigation & Trial) ACT, 2021, "THE ANTI-RAPE (INVESTIGATION AND TRIAL) (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2026, moved by Senator Bushra Anjum Butt, in the Senate Sitting held on 24th August, 2026, and referred to the Committee for consideration and report.

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

1.	Senator Faisal Saleem Rehman	Chairman
2.	Senator Syedaal Khan	Member
3.	Senator Syed Faisal Ali Sabzwari	Member
4.	Senator Shahadat Awan	Member
5.	Senator Naseema Ehsan	Member
6.	Senator Saifullah Abro	Member
7.	Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri	Member
8.	Senator Umer Farooq	Member
9.	Senator Palwasha Muhammad Zai Khan	Member
10.	Senator Jam Saifullah Khan	Member
11.	Senator Muhammad Talha Mahmood	Member
12.	Senator Mir Dostain Khan Domki	Member
13.	Senator Dilawar Khan	Member
14.	Senator Abid Sher Ali	Member
15.	Minister for Interior & Narcotics Control	Ex-Officio Member

3. The Committee considered the Bill during its meeting held on 7th September, 2026, which was attended by the following Members, namely:-

1.	Senator Faisal Saleem Rehman	Chairman
2.	Senator Muhammad Talha Mahmood	Member
3.	Senator Shahadat Awan	Member
4.	Senator Naseema Ehsan	Member
5.	Senator Saifullah Abro	Member
6.	Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri	Member
7.	Senator Umer Farooq	Member
8.	Senator Palwasha Muhammad Zai Khan	Member
9.	Senator Jam Saifullah Khan	Member

10. Senator Dilawar Khan
11. Minister of State for Interior
12. Senator Bushra Butt
13. Senator Sarmad Ali

Member
Ex-officio Member
Mover
Mover

3. During the briefing Senator Bushra Anjum Butt, Mover of the Bill, apprised the Committee that the said Bill had been passed by the National Assembly and later on she moved the same in the Senate as private Member's Bill. While sharing its salient features and objectives, she stated that child abuse, in all its forms physical, sexual, emotional, and neglect remained one of the most pressing societal issues in Pakistan, directly impacting the most vulnerable members of society. She highlighted that the judicial process in such cases often suffered from delay, complex procedures, and a lack of specialized support, resulting in further harm to child victims and that the trauma caused by prolonged legal proceedings, coupled with the fear of intimidation or re-victimization, undermined the effectiveness of the justice system and the overall wellbeing of the child. She further stated that the Bill sought to address these challenges by introducing a specialized framework for the swift and effective handling of child abuse cases.

4. The representative of the Ministry of Law and Justice apprised the Committee that sub-rule (5) of Rule 6 of the Anti-Rape (Medico-Legal) Rules, 2022, made under the Act, already provided that examination of the victim be conducted, after registration of the FIR, ordinarily within four to six hours. He further stated that a separate bail-related provision was unnecessary, as Section 29 already made the relevant provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure applicable, and the scheduled offences remained subject to the existing statutory bail regime; the Bill was accordingly opposed by the Law Division.

5. While endorsing the view point of the Ministry of Law, the Minister of State for Interior & Narcotics Control suggested the Committee to seek comments from all the provinces first on the Bill and urged to defer its consideration until receipt of their response in the matter. Thereafter, notwithstanding the Law Division's dissent, the Chairman put the Bill to vote, and the Committee unanimously recommended that the Bill, as introduced in the Senate, may be passed.

(HAMMAD KHAN MARRI)
J.S / Secretary (Committee)

(SENATOR FAISAL SALEEM REHMAN)
Chairman (Committee)

Islamabad, the
7th September, 2026.

[AS PASSED BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY]

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BILL

to amend the Anti-Rape (Investigation and Trial) Act, 2021

WHEREAS, It is expedient to amend the Anti-Rape (Investigation and Trial) Act, 2021 (XXX of 2021), in the manner and for the purposes hereinafter appearing;

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

1. Short title and commencement.- (1) This Bill may be called the Anti-Rape (Investigation and Trial) (Amendment) Bill, 2026,

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. Amendment of section 4, Act XXX of 2021.- In the said Act, in section 4, in sub-section (2), in the proviso, for the full stop at the end a colon shall be substituted and thereafter the following new proviso shall be added, namely:-

“Provided further that in every case where a child is alleged to be a victim of abuse, the police shall ensure that a medical examination is conducted within twenty-four hours of the report. The examination should be carried out by a qualified forensic expert in a manner that upholds the dignity, safety, and privacy of the child. The forensic evidence gathered during the medical examination must be preserved and submitted as part of the investigation.”.

3. Insertion of new section 16A, Act XXX of 2021.- In the said Act, after section 16, the following new section 16A, shall be inserted, namely:-

"16A. Bail only in exceptional circumstances.- In cases of sexual abuse, physical abuse, or exploitation of children, the court shall deny bail unless exceptional circumstances exist. The court shall consider the best interests of the child victim, including the potential for further harm or intimidation by the accused. Bail may only be granted after a careful assessment of the child's safety and welfare."

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Child abuse, in all its forms physical, sexual, emotional abuse, and neglect remains one of the most pressing societal issues in Pakistan, directly impacting the most vulnerable members of society. The judicial process in such cases often suffers from delays, complex procedures, and a lack of specialized support resulting in further harm to the child victims. The trauma caused by prolonged legal proceedings, coupled with the fear of intimidation or re-victimization, undermines the effectiveness of the justice system and the overall wellbeing of the child. This Bill seeks to address these challenges by introducing a specialized framework for the swift and effective handling of child abuse cases.

Sd/-
MS. NOSHEEN IFTIKHAR
Member, National Assembly