

## *Huma A. Chughtai*

Ms. Huma A. Chughtai received her education in some of the most prestigious educational institutions within and outside Pakistan. She has done her LL.B in Law & Sharia from the International Islamic University Islamabad being one of the torch-bearer women students of the University. She practiced law in the local Bar for over two years and later went on to work with the National Assembly of Pakistan as a legislative researcher in the area of law & Sharia, constitutional, legal and judicial issues, women's rights and gender issues, and parliamentary practices. She was trained in legislative research methodology at the Senate Office of Research in California State Legislature in Sacramento. Ms. Chughtai acquired her LL.M degree in International Law of Human Rights from the University of Nottingham in the UK. She also completed the 84th Advanced Public Sector Management Course from the National Institute of Public Administration (NIPA) Lahore and was rated with above-average performance. Ms. Chughtai has also received training in legislative drafting from the University of Boston as an external program student.

With a professional standing of almost thirty years, Ms. Huma Chughtai has served in various key positions within the government as well as in the development sector. She has worked as a Lawyer, as an internationally trained Legislative Researcher in the Parliament of Pakistan, and as a Governance, Law, Human Rights and Gender Specialist in various key capacities with international organisations. Ms. Chughtai has, therefore, a unique and rich experience of working in arena of i) governance, including parliamentary, judicial, electoral and gender reform, ii) women, peace and security, iii) gender & energy, and iv) human rights. Gender and human rights remains cross cutting in all her work.

Ms. Chughtai's work in the government has mostly been with the National Assembly of Pakistan where she served in a senior position for over a decade and a half. In addition to heading the Research Section of the National Assembly as Director Research, Ms. Chughtai has also served as secretary to five Standing Committees of the National Assembly including Women Development & Social Welfare, Health, and the Special Committee of the Parliament on Water Resources.

In the government, Ms. Huma Chughtai has also served the Ministry of Law, justice & Human Rights as Joint Secretary (JS) on a two year contractual position. During this stint with the Ministry, she was assigned to review and finalise the draft country reports on international human rights conventions ratified by Pakistan and supervise the country reporting mechanism. Besides, she was also tasked to manage the Treaty Implementation Cell (TIC) that coordinates and ensures an institutional mechanism to implement human rights treaties ratified by Pakistan within the government. Besides, Ms. Chughtai was also assigned to work as JS (Opinion) in which she responded to legal opinions on a range of issues sought by various government departments and ministries. In the past, Ms. Chughtai had also been affiliated with the Ministry of Women Development<sup>1</sup> as a Key Policy Expert and later as Legal Advisor.

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<sup>1</sup> The Ministry stands devolved since 18<sup>th</sup> Constitutional amendment

In addition, Ms. Chughtai has constantly provided technical assistance to the Women's Parliamentary Caucus in the National Assembly of Pakistan since its inception in 2008. She has remained part time Technical Advisor to the Women's Parliamentary Caucus for more than 3 years (2014 - 17).

Besides, Ms. Huma Chughtai has also been a visiting faculty in International Islamic University's Sharia Department (Women Section), Allama Iqbal Open University (Gender Studies Department), Takhshasila Law College Islamabad, where she has taught, International Refugee Law, Constitutional Law, International Human Rights Conventions, and status of women in Islam etc. In addition, she has also been an external supervisor for LL.M students in the International Islamic University.

Ms. Huma Chughtai has, therefore, a unique firsthand experience in top level government and parliamentary policy and decision making processes, teaching, as well as has a rich experience of working in the development sector with some prestigious international organizations in the given areas of her work.

She has to her credit a number of national and international trainings and master trainings on an array of subjects. Her publications work includes developing the *"Policy Guidelines for Vulnerable Groups in Disasters"* for the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) in April 2014 that was followed by developing *"Implementation Framework for the Policy Guidelines for Vulnerable Groups in Disasters"* for NDMA. Ms. Chughtai also drafted a report on *"Legal Provisions for Women; Issues and Challenges of Implementation Amongst the Police"* for the GIZ's Gender Responsive Policing (GRP) Project (December 2013); Besides, she has also produced the first annual report of Khyber Pakhtun Khwa Prisons (2013 - 14) for the Inspectorate of Prisons, Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and drafted the 5<sup>th</sup> periodic country report on CEDAW for Pakistan (2013-17) for the Government of Pakistan. Besides, she Co-authored an article on women police in Pakistan *"Why Pakistan Needs a Few More Good Women"* that was published on July 29, 2014 in the USA Foreign Policy<sup>2</sup> in her pursuance for enrolling more women within the police and law enforcement to optimize efforts to counter extremism in Pakistan; *'Domestication of CEDAW in Pakistan'*; Briefing paper on flood-displaced women in Sindh Province (IDMC, April 2011) June 2011 Presented at the Nansen Conference on Climate Change in Norway; and .

In addition to being proficient in English language, Ms. Chughtai can also speak French and Arabic languages. She has travelled extensively around the world for conferences, exposure visits and training courses. The countries she has visited for the purpose include Geneva, UK, USA, Canada, Germany, Turkey, Qatar, South Africa, Saudi Arabia, Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Nepal, Bangladesh, India, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, and Philippines.

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<sup>2</sup> [http://southasia.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2014/07/29/pakistani\\_policewomen](http://southasia.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2014/07/29/pakistani_policewomen)