

**THE PUNJAB PROTECTION OF WOMEN AGAINST  
VIOLENCE (AMENDMENT) ACT 2022  
(XXXVIII of 2022)**

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**TEXT**

**THE PUNJAB PROTECTION OF WOMEN AGAINST VIOLENCE  
(AMENDMENT) ACT 2022  
(XXXVIII of 2022)**

[05 December 2022]

An  
Act

*to amend the Punjab Protection of Women Against Violence Act 2016.*

It is expedient to amend the Punjab Protection of Women against Violence Act 2016 (XVI of 2016) for the purposes hereinafter appearing.

Be it enacted by Provincial Assembly of the Punjab as follows:

**1. Short title and commencement.**— (1) This Act may be cited as the Punjab Protection of Women Against Violence (Amendment) Act 2022.

(2) This Act shall come into force at once.

**2. Amendment of Act XVI of 2016.**— In the Punjab Protection of Women Against Violence Act 2016 (XVI of 2016), hereinafter referred to ‘the Act’, for the words “District Coordination Officer” wherever occur, the words “Deputy Commissioner” shall be substituted.

**3. Amendment of section 2 of Act XVI of 2016.**— In the Punjab Protection of Women Against Violence Act 2016 (XVI of 2016), hereinafter referred to ‘the Act’, in section 2:

(a) after clause (a), the following clause (aa) shall be inserted:

“(aa) “Authority” means the Punjab Women Protection Authority established under section 3 of the Punjab Women Protection Authority Act 2017 (X of 2017);”;

(b) for clause (h), the following shall be substituted:

“domestic violence” means the violence committed by the defendant with whom the aggrieved person is living or has lived in a house or visits the house when they are related to each other by consanguinity, marriage, adoption or in terms of employment;”;

(c) in clause (j), after the word “family”, the expression “,or lives or visits such place as a domestic worker” shall be inserted;

(d) in clause (l), after the word “established”, the words “or declared”, be inserted;

(e) after clause (p), the following clause (pp) shall be inserted:

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<sup>1</sup>This Act was passed by Provincial Assembly of the Punjab on 14 November 2022; and was deemed to have been assented to by the Governor of the Punjab in terms of Article 116(3) of the Constitution; and, was published in the Punjab Gazette (Extraordinary), dated: 05 December 2022, pp.2397-2399.

“(pp) “Secretary” means Secretary to the Government, Social Welfare and Bait-ul-Maal Department;” and

- (f) in clause (s), after the word “appointed”, the words “or nominated”, be inserted.

**4. Amendment of section 11 of Act XVI of 2016.**– In the Act, in section 11, in subsection (2):

- (a) in clause (a), for the expression “Executive District Officer (Health)”, the expression “Chief Executive Officer, District Health Authority” shall be substituted;
- (b) in clause (b), for the expression “Executive District Officer (Community Development)”, the words “a representative of the Local Government and Community Development Department of the Government” shall be substituted;
- (c) in clause (d), for the words “District Officer” the words “Deputy Director” shall be substituted; and
- (d) in subsections (3), (5) and (7), for the word “Government” the word “Authority” shall be substituted.

**5. Amendment of section 12 of Act XVI of 2016.**– In the Act, in section 12:

- (a) in subsection (1), in clause (m), for the word “Government”, the word “Authority” shall be substituted; and
- (b) in subsection (3), for the word “Government”, the word “Secretary”.

**6. Amendment of section 13 of Act XVI of 2016.**– In the Act, in section 13, after subsection (5), the following subsections (6) and (7) shall be inserted:

“(6) Where a Protection Centre or shelter home is not established under this section, the Secretary may, subject to such terms and conditions as he may determine, declare any existing Government facility, centre or institution providing similar services as Protection Centre or shelter home for purposes of this Act.

(7) Where any existing facility, centre or institution is declared as Protection Centre or shelter home under subsection (6), the infra-structure, paraphernalia, assets and the employees of such facility, centre or institution shall remain under the administrative control of the Social Welfare and Bait-ul-Maal Department of the Government:

provided that the service structure and terms and conditions of service of the employees of such facility, centre or institution shall continue to be governed under the law, rules and policies applicable to them for the time being in force.”.

**7. Amendment of section 14 of Act XVI of 2016.**– In the Act, in section 14, in subsection (1), for the full stop at the end, a colon shall be substituted, and thereafter, the following proviso shall be inserted:

“provided that where the District Women Protection Officers or Women Protection Officers are not appointed under this section, the Secretary may, subject to such terms and conditions as he may determine, by notification in the official Gazette nominate any officer of the Social Welfare and Bait-ul-Maal Department of the Government to perform the functions of the District Women Protection Officers or Women Protection Officers under this Act.”.

**8. Amendment of sections 25 and 27 of Act XVI of 2016.**– In the Act, in sections 25 and 27, for the word “Government”, the word “Authority” shall be substituted.

**9. Amendment of section 28 of Act XVI of 2016.**– In the Act, in section 28, for subsection (1), the following shall be substituted:

“(1) The Authority shall, within three months of the close of a financial year, submit to Secretary an annual report relating to the affairs and efficacy of the protection system, and the Secretary shall cause the report to be laid before Provincial Assembly of the Punjab.”.

**10. Amendment of section 29 of Act XVI of 2016.**– In the Act, in section 29, in subsection (2), the expression “, within one hundred and twenty days of the commencement of the Act,” shall be omitted.