**PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PUNJAB**

**Bill No. 63 of 2025**

**THE PUNJAB WOMEN'S INHERITANCE RIGHTS ENFORCEMENT BILL 2025**

A

Bill

*to establish a legal framework for the enforcement and protection rights for women.*

It is expedient to establish a legal framework for the enforcement and protection of such rights for women in the province of Punjab.

Be it enacted by the Provincial Assembly of the Punjab:

**1. Short title, extent and commencement.-** (1) This Act may be cited as the Punjab Women's Inheritance Rights Enforcement Act 2025.

(2) It shall extend to the whole of the Punjab.

(3) It shall come into force at once.

**2. Definitions.-** In this Act:

(a) “‎‎Woman‎”‎ means a female person entitled to inheritance under the applicable personal law;

(b) “‎‎Property‎”‎ includes both movable and immovable property;

(c) “Heir” means any person entitled to succeed to property under Islamic law or personal law;

(d) “Revenue officer” means any officer authorized under the Punjab Land Revenue Act, 1967;

(e) “Ombudsperson” refers to the official appointed under section 5 of this Act; and

(f) “Tribunal” means the Fast-Track Inheritance Tribunal established under section 6.

**3. Right of inheritance.-** (1) Every woman shall have the right to receive her share in inheritance in accordance with Islamic laws.

(2) No woman shall be deprived, excluded or disinherited by any person or authority.

**4. Mandatory inclusion of female heirs.-** (1) It shall be mandatory for revenue authorities to enter the names of all legal heirs, including female heirs, during mutation, partition or transfer of property.

(2) No mutation or transfer of inherited property shall be processed without the express written consent of all female heirs.

**5. Ombudsperson for Women's Inheritance Rights.-** (1) The Government shall appoint an Ombudsperson for Women's Inheritance Rights at the Provincial level.

(2) The Ombudsperson shall:

(a) Receive complaints from women deprived of inheritance;

(b) Direct correction of land records;

(c) Recommend prosecution under this Act; and

(d) Provide mediation where appropriate.

**6. Fast-Track Inheritance Tribunals.-** (1) The Government shall establish Fast-Track Inheritance Tribunals in each district.

(2) Such tribunals shall:

(a) Adjudicate complaints within 90 days;

(b) Possess powers of a civil court under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908; and

(c) Be presided over by a District & Sessions Judge or Additional District Judge.

**7. Offenses and penalties.-** (1) Any person who:

(a) Willfully conceals the existence of a female heir;

(b) Forges or tampers with inheritance documents; and

(c) Threatens, coerces, or excludes a woman from inheritance; shall be punished with imprisonment up to 3 years and a fine up to Rs.1,000,000/-.

(2) On a second or subsequent conviction, the penalty shall be enhanced to imprisonment up to 5 years and fine up to Rs.2,000,000/-.

**8. Legal aid and representation.-** (1) The Government shall ensure that free legal representation is provided to women filing complaints under this Act.

(2) The Punjab Bar Council shall maintain a panel of qualified female lawyers for this purpose.

**9. Awareness and education.-** (1) The Government shall launch public awareness campaigns to educate citizens about women's rights to inheritance under Islamic and Pakistani law.

(2) Such education shall be integrated into:

(a) School and madrassa curricula;

(b) Khutbas and mosque-based awareness; and

(c) Media broadcasts.

**10. Rulemaking power.-** The Government may make rules to carry out the purposes of this Act within 60 days of the commencement of this Act.

**STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS**

Women’s inheritance rights in Punjab, Pakistan, are governed by a combination of Islamic law, constitutional guarantees, and provincial legislation. The Punjab province has to take additional steps to improve, implementation, ‎establishing framework on legal basis. Under Islamic law, women are entitled to specific shares in inheritance. Daughters, wives, mothers, and sisters all have defined portions based on their relation to the deceased. In Constitution of Pakistan, Articles 23 & 24 Protect the right to acquire, hold, and dispose of property. Streamline succession procedures and strengthen punishments for fraudulent denial of inheritance. Hence this Bill.

 **MS ASMA EHTISHAM UL HAQ**

 **MPA (W-311)**

 **MEMBER INCHARGE**

**Lahore: CH AMER HABIB**

**May 13, 2025 Secretary General**