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Summary Report
Survey of Harassment of Women and Children
in Afghanistan
Fiscal year 1396

➤ □ **Summary of the findings of this report**

The results of the survey showed that of the 1,530 women interviewed, 1307 women confirmed that they themselves were victims of one or more type of harassment practiced by men. The figure makes up 85.4% of the total number of interviewees. Thus, only 223 people (14.6% of all interviewees), have confirmed that they had not been harassed by men so far.

Women and girls who have been harassed by men have confirmed that they have been repeatedly the victim of one or more types of harassment. The findings of interviews made by AIHRC's staff with 1307 female victims, show that they have been harassed at least 3,888 times.

According to the experiences of harassment victims, at least 15 types of harassment have been listed in the interviews, including jokes, phrases, solicit for sex, insulting and humiliating, touching women's body, bumping into, whistling, horning and vehicle lift offer, way blocking, sexual assault, leering, threats from family members for the sexual desire, lustful pranks, threats from relatives, friends and family acquaintances aiming fulfilment of sexual desires, threat in the street and the market to make the victim accept the sexual demands, threats from the head and senior officials of the offices aiming to impose sexual desire, and phone call and electronic messages, emails and pictures against ethics.

➤ **Lustful phrases and Jokes**

The interviewees' experiences show that so far 749 women have been victims of lustful phrases and jokes, making up 57.3% of all women victims.

➤ **Solicit for sexual relation**

Solicit for sexual relation is one of the most common forms of harassment at the community level and is almost an everyday issue. Unfortunately, 100 interviewees, making up 7.7% of the total number of interviewees, have confirmed that they have been challenged with such requests.

➤ **Insulting and humiliating women**

Insulting and humiliating women are another form of harassment that is usually committed by men with a sexual motive or attitude. Of the 1307 women who were victims of various types of harassment, 322 of them (24.6%), were victims of insults and humiliation.

➤ **Touching the body of women and girls**

Especially in public and crowded places, this behavior is one of the major problems of today, especially of our younger generation. According to the AIHRC's inquiry, of the 1,307 women who experienced harassment, 165 people, (12.6%,) were virtually the victim of this type offensive behavior by men.

➤ **Shoving or bumping**

Some men deliberately bump into girls and women when they pass by them. According to data gathered by AIHRC, of the 1,307 women interviewed, 500 of them (38.3%) confirmed that they were faced with this kind of men's act in the street.

➤ **Whistling**

Whistling is one of the most abusive behaviors that young males and teenagers practice when chasing women and girls in the streets aiming to harass women and girls. The findings of this study showed that out of 1307 women interviewed, 470 of them (36%) were the victims of this type of harassment.

➤ **Horn and vehicle lift offer**

AIHRC's surveys in this study have shown that among the 1,307 women victims of the harassment, 446 of them (34.1%), were victims of this type of male behavior.

➤ **Blocking the way, sexual assault;**

Sexual assault is one of the most brutal types of harassment among women and girls in Afghanistan. The AIHRC launched a national inquiry in 2013 on "The Causes and Context of Sexual Assault and Honor killings in Afghanistan." In this research, it was shown that only during the 14 months from the first of Hamal 1390 till the end of the month of Sawr 1392, 406 cases of honor killings and sexual assault were registered with the AIHRC in regional and provincial offices. The study also found that among the 1,307 interviewees, 34 of them, (2.6%), were the victims of this kind of male behavior.

➤ **Lustful looking or leering**

Lustful looking or winking or similar sexually-suggestive gesture is another kind of challenge faced by women in the society. The study found that out of a total of 1,307 women who responded to the questionnaire, 561 people, (42.9%), faced this type of act by men.

➤ **Threats from family members for the sexual desires;**

The current research has shown that 38 people (2.9%) of all women who have been harassed, faced this kind of threat and have been practically the victim of bullying and harassing by the men of the family.

➤ **Threats from relatives, friends and family acquaintances for sexual desires**

According to interviews conducted by the AIHRC's staff with girls and women, 22 people, (1.8%), were the victims of this type of harassment.

➤ **Lustful jokes**

According to the findings of the survey, 115 of the 1,307 people (8.8%) were the victims of this type of male behavior.

➤ **Threats in the street to achieve sexual desire**

The AIHRC's investigation has shown that 58 people, (4.4%), faced such harassment in the street.

➤ **Threat by the Head and High Authority of the Office for Sexual Desires**

Based on the findings of this study, 40 people, (3.1%) of the total number of interviewees, were victims of this type of behavior in the offices.

➤ **Phone calls and sending messages, emails and images that is against ethics**

The findings of this study have shown that among the 1,307 women, 267 people (20.4%) were the victims of this abusive practice.

➤ **Information on harassment of women and girls**

In this part of the report, in addition to the information on the total number of harassment cases that were experienced by 1,307 victims, information is also provided regarding the place of incidence and the demography of the perpetrators.

➤ **Place of occurrence and demography of perpetrators**

A total of 3,888 experiences different from the various types of harassment was documented by 1,307 women interviewed.

➤ **Place of occurrence of harassment**

Out of 3,888 harassment experiences, experienced by 1,307 women or girls, 71 of them occurred at home, 62 in public ceremonies, 1,030 in the market, 206 in the streets and pathway, 65 in schools, 186 in universities, 195 in general transport, 11 cases in offices and 176 cases in shopping centers and stores. The place of occurrence of other 1,886 cases, are unknown.

➤ **The demography of perpetrators of harassments**

The perpetrators of harassment of women and girls, according to the findings of this study, are generally male and mostly from younger generations. Some of these people are relatives and acquaintances of the victims, and there are a number of unknown people who have harassed women and girls in the street.

➤ **The relation of perpetrators with the victims**

The findings of this study indicate that 101 people who have been the perpetrator of harassment of women and girls were from among the family members. 1,085 unidentified people, 97 from among the friends, relatives and acquaintances of victims, 47 people from among the high ranking officials at the workplaces, 26 people were from among the teachers of the victim, 12 people from among the retired staff and 150 people from the ANP personnel. The identity of the perpetrators 2370 other cases is unknown.

➤ **Age of perpetrators of persecution**

The findings of this study have shown that the perpetrators of harassment of women and girls were divided into four different age groups, 19 to 25, 26 to 40, 12 to 18 and ultimately the age group of 41 years which comes in the final stage.

Based on the findings of this research, the age group of 12 to 18 have been the perpetrators of 225 cases of female harassment, the age group 19 to 25, committed 702 cases, age group 26 to 40, committed 506 cases, and finally age group 41 has been the perpetrators of 134 cases of harassment of women and girls.

➤ **The reaction of women and girls to harassment**

According to the findings of the study, out of 1,307 women who have experienced harassment (3,888 cases of harassment in total), only 1,817 people have tried to address this problem to the responsible authorities and family members and friends. Altogether, 74 cases were reported to the police and 37 cases were filed with human rights organizations. Also, in 333 cases, they have shared the issue with family members and in 212 cases with their friends, and have asked for their help.

In 69 cases involving women employees, the case was shared with the administrative authorities, and in 330 cases victims reacted personally. Thus, in 593 cases, the victim did not want to share the matter with others and remained silent for the sake of maintaining pride and fear of the consequences and reactions of others, especially the reaction of their family members. In 169 other cases, victims have no opportunity to react, so the issue has remained unpunished and unprosecuted. The reaction of victims in 2071 cases remained unknown.

➤ **Police actions after filing complaints and advocacy for victims of harassment**

Information obtained from interviews with victims who had referred to the police, indicates that among the 1,307 victims of the harassment, 177 people have filed a lawsuit with the police. Of all these, 32 people reported that their complaints were filed by the police. 24 people stated that the case had been filed and prosecuted, but the perpetrator was not arrested. 24 people confirmed that the case was registered but was not prosecuted, and 97 people confirmed that the police did not pay attention to their complaints and did not register the case at all. 1,130 other people did not say anything.

➤ **The actions of human rights organizations after filing complaints and advocacy for victims of harassment**

Of the 1,307 victims, 129 have said that after being harassed they went to human rights organizations and asked for help filing a complaint. 33 people said that their complaints were registered and supported. 47 people confirmed that they had filed a complaint but did not receive any specific support. Another 49 people said that their complaints had not even been heard and they were not taken into consideration when asked for help. The remaining 1,178 people did not say anything about it.

➤ **Family members' reaction after hearing the subject**

According to information from interviewees who were victims of harassment and shared the matter with their family members, in 139 cases, the family member has been sentimental after hearing the incident and has tried to punish the perpetrator of harassment. Another 60 people confirmed that their family member had blamed and beaten them after hearing the story. In 15 cases, the family member has contacted the police after hearing the victim's complaint and asked for help. In 283 other cases, the family member has given them advice on how to treat and behave outside the home.

➤ **The reaction of the authorities after hearing the complaints**

The findings of this study show that in 22 cases, the authorities have filed complaints and have addressed the issues in accordance with the Law on the Prohibition of Violence Against Women. In 34 cases, they received the complaints and personally spoke to the perpetrators and made them aware of the mistake. 47 complaints have been received but no specific action has been taken, and in 74 others, complaints have not been received at all and no specific action has been taken. This means that they did not want to act in accordance with the provisions of the law, and persecute the persecutor.

➤ **Consequences**

The information obtained in this study has shown that 39 of 1,307 people have left school and university due to harassment. Also, 31 people have left their jobs in the office and forced to stay home. 304 people have lost their peace of mind and tranquility as a result of persecution and harassment.