

## 52<sup>nd</sup> Session – Pakistan

### *Recommendations to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child*

*Prepared by Child Helpline International and Member Helplines – April 2009*

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#### **Background:**

Pakistan's child helpline is operated by Madadgaar Help Line for Children and Women Suffering from Violence and Abuse and available from Monday to Saturday during 9:00 to 18:00. The national child helpline is not toll-free for the caller. The child helpline receives funding limited funding. A national child helpline with a toll free, short, 3-4 digit telephone number, with current technologies and infrastructure, has the potential to receive more than 3.8 million calls annually<sup>1</sup>.

#### **Recommendation 1**

Government support for the helpline should ensure the helpline meets international quality standards, and reaches more children by:

- Allocation of a 3-4 digit number, preferably 1098, as a toll-free number for the helpline
- raising awareness amongst children
- allocating appropriate resources to the marginalised child
- allocating appropriate financial resources to support long-term activities of the helpline including for training and capacity building to meet international quality standards
- including greater child participation in the development of programmes, and ensure that relevant legislation is fully implemented

#### **Recommendation 2**

The Government should work in greater partnership with the helpline by:

- acknowledging the helpline as a tool for child protection
- considering the child helpline a viable source for data on children's issues on a national level
- facilitating the partnership with its responsible entities strengthening the child protection system in the country (for example – child protection units within the local Social Support Directorates, schools, health services, etc.)

#### **Recommendation 3**

The Government should recruit qualified counsellors for children in schools to address and promote youth-friendly reproductive health services

- recruiting qualified psychologists and/or social workers in each school
- recruiting highly qualified medical doctors and/or nurses
- allocating appropriate resources for training both the above groups

#### ***If you wish further information please contact Child Helpline International:***

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<sup>1</sup> According to an estimate of McKinsey. Data used from ITU (2008) and Unicef (2007)



Child Helpline International