

# **SOME KEY WOMEN EXPERTS IN PEACE & SECURITY PAKISTAN**



**Insan Foundation Trust (IFT)**

Insan Foundation Trust (IFT) - national organization - publishes this list of some top female experts to inform development, communication and peace and security sectors for inclusion of women and women's voices in peace and security sector. Let's make Pakistan a strong, balanced and women-friendly country.



## **1. Hina Rabbani Khar, Politician**

Hina Rabbani Khar is a Pakistani politician who served as the 26th Foreign Minister of Pakistan from February 2011 until March 2013. She remains the youngest person and the first woman to have held the position.

She studied business at LUMS and Amherst before entering politics as a member of the National Assembly in 2002, representing the PML-Q and becoming a junior minister responsible for economic policy under the Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz. In 2009, she became the Minister of State for Finance and Economic Affairs in the Pakistan People's Party government. Same year, she became the first woman to present the national budget. She continues to be a member of the Pakistan People's Party, and is a public speaker on foreign policy.



## **2. Senator Sherry Rehman, Politician**

Sherry Rehman is the Vice President of Pakistan People's Party and member of the Senate of Pakistan since 2015 and has been the leader of the Opposition in the Senate since March 2018. She is a founding Chair of the Jinnah Institute, a public policy think tank committed to the strengthening of democracy, governance and an independent national security project in Pakistan. She co-chairs several track-two strategic dialogues with India, and is convener of a similar institutionalized dialogue process between Pakistan and Afghanistan. Sherry Rehman served as Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States (Nov 2011- May 2013). Before this, she was Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Pakistan (2008-09) and ranking member of the National Security Committee in

the Parliament. She is also the architect of the first parliamentary charter and bill for women empowerment, mover of the Hudood Ordinances Repeal Bill and Anti-Honour Killings Bill, as well as the Freedom of Information Act 2004. As Minister, she moved the first government bill of the 2008 National Assembly for the repeal of martial law-led anti-media clauses in the Electronic Media Regulatory Ordinance. Rehman is also one of the founding members of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, and on the Syndicate of the Quaid-e-Azam University. Before her designation as Pakistan's Ambassador to United States Sherry Rehman was Member of Parliament in the National Assembly of Pakistan from the Pakistan People's Party for her second term. For her services to Pakistan, she has been awarded the state's highest civil award, the Nishan-i-Imtiaz in March 2013.



### **3. Maleeha Lodhi PhD, Diplomat**

Maleeha Lodhi is a Pakistani diplomat, military strategist, academician and political scientist who serves as Pakistan's Representative to the United Nations, the first woman to hold the position. Previously, she served as Pakistan's envoy to the Court of St James's and twice as its ambassador to the United States. Lodhi studied political science at the London School of Economics and after receiving her doctorate from the school she remained there as a member of faculty teaching political sociology. She is the first woman to edit a national newspaper 'The Muslim' in Asia. She is also the founding editor of The News International. She was appointed as Pakistan's envoy to the United States twice. She became a member of the United Nations Secretary General's Advisory Board on Disarmament; she served on the board until 2005. In 2003, she was appointed as Pakistan's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom at the Court of St James's. Lodhi also served as a resident fellow at the Institute of Politics and the Kennedy School of Harvard University. Lodhi was appointed to serve as Permanent Representative and Ambassador of Pakistan to the UN in New York City, making her the first woman to hold the position. Lodhi is one of Pakistan's prominent diplomats, she has been named as an international scholar at the Woodrow Wilson Center. She has been named by the Time magazine as one of a hundred people in the world who will help to shape the 21st century. Lodhi was also a member of the National Defence University's Senate, and has been a member of the advisory council of IISS and continues to be a member of the Global Agenda Council of the World Economic Forum. Lodhi is the recipient of the Hilal-i-Imtiaz for Public Service and holds an honorary fellowship from the London School of Economics and received an honorary degree of Doctor of Letters from the London Metropolitan University in 2005. She is the author of two books, Pakistan: the External Challenge and Pakistan's Encounter with Democracy.



### **4. Bushra Gohar, Political Figure**

Bushra Gohar has been a Member of the Pakistan Parliament from 2008-2013, and is a Central Member of the Awami National Party's (ANP) interim organizing committee & intra party elections commission. The ANP has a long history of supporting women's rights and she was twice elected as Central Vice President of the party. She was also elected chair of the National Assembly's Standing Committee on Women's Development and chaired the committee to appoint a chairperson of the National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW). As a long-time development and human rights activist she served as the Chair of the South Asia Partnership International and as a Global vice Chair of the Inter-nation Council on Social Welfare. She is a founding member of the newly formed National Organization of Women in Parliamentary Politics. Ms. Gohar has served on the Advisory Council of the Women, Peace and Security Research Institute (RIWPS). She is a Member of the Parliamentarians Network for Conflict Prevention and at the forefront advocating for the

inclusion of women's voices in the peace processes taking place in Pakistan. She pioneered one of the first all-women Jirgas (Elders Council) on peace and security to address women-specific issues and bring them to the mainstream decision making forums.



### **5. Hina Jilani, Lawyer**

Hina Jilani is a well-known lawyer and human-rights activist in Pakistan. Along with her sister, Asma Jahangir, she co-founded Pakistan's first all-female legal practice in 1980. She is also one of the founders of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan and the Women's Action Forum, a pressure group campaigning against Pakistan's discriminatory legislation, as well as the founder of Pakistan's first legal aid center in 1986. A prominent lawyer and civil society activist for the last three decades, Jilani specializes in human rights litigation and the human rights of women, children, minorities, and prisoners. She has conducted several cases that have become landmarks in setting human rights standards in Pakistan. Jilani has been involved with the United Nations Center for Human Rights, the Carter Center, and the UN Conference on Women. She was appointed to the UN International Fact-Finding Commission on Darfur. She also served as the United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary General on Human Rights Defenders. She is also a member of the Eminent Jurists Panel on Terrorism, Counter-terrorism and Human Rights.



### **6. Rukshanda Naz, Lawyer & Civil Society Activist**

Rukshanda is the torch-bearer of the struggle for women's rights in Pakistan in general and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the Tribal Areas in particular and continues her efforts to ensure women's due rights in a male-dominated society in Pakistan. Her vast experience in the development sector and equally important support for press freedom and freedom of expression brought her close to the journalist community and she stood by journalists whenever freedom of press in Pakistan was under attack. She headed the UN Women in the northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province and Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA). Her quest for knowledge does not end with one degree as she obtained her LLM from Coventry University. She had also been resident Director of Aurat Foundation at one point in time.



### **7. Nighat Dad, Cyber Security Expert**

Nighat Dad is the Executive Director of Digital Rights Foundation, Pakistan. She is an accomplished lawyer and a human rights activist. Nighat Dad is one of the pioneers who have been campaigning around access to open internet in Pakistan and globally. She has been actively campaigning and engaging at a policy level on issues focusing on Internet Freedom, Women and technology, Digital Security and Women's empowerment. Ms. Dad has been recently included in Next Generation Leaders List by TIME's magazine for her work on helping women fight online harassment.



### **8. Hadiya Nusrat, Humanitarian Assistance Expert**

A Seasoned professional with more than 23 years of experience that is dominated by gender, child rights and protection, democratic governance, and sector specific social development issues. She has provided high-level policy advisory, technical, capacity development, & consultancy services to government, multilateral

and bilateral organizations, academic institutions, NGOs, CBOs, private sector and media. Designed, managed, and provided oversight to high-profile programs/projects with engagement of government, multilateral & bilateral donor organizations from a gender and social development perspective in Pakistan. Worked as Gender Equality Advisor to UN- Humanitarian response both for Pakistan and more recently for Afghanistan, providing technical support to decisions makers of UN Agencies, government disaster management departments and donor community bridging the contexts of development and humanitarian in gender informed response and resilience. She has trained across the country on gender mainstreaming issues with local civil society and government disaster response departments, Rescue 1122, and UN Peacekeepers to be deployed to missions. She teaches as visiting faculty at Islamabad's Quaid-e-Azam and Iqra University. Nusrat has significant experience working in crisis/conflict/post-conflict areas. She is an author, co-writer and contributor to numerous publications, reports, academic papers, and presentations at international & national levels.



### **9. Fahmida Iqbal Khan, UN System and Peace Keeping**

Fahmida Iqbal is presently working in the capacity of Community Mobilization & Networking Advisor with UNAIDS Country Office for Pakistan and Afghanistan. She has worked with UN Women as Program Specialist- Women and Peace Program. She has diverse field of expertise of more than 14 years in HIV/ AIDS, Maternal Health, Women and Peace, community resilience, conflict resolution and peace building. She is having extensive knowledge on international treaties like UNSCR 1325, UNCAT, CEDAW, UDHR. She worked tirelessly to address violence against women and girls issues and anti-discriminatory practices and legislations. She is the member of national and international partners to address issues related to VAW and GBV. She has also successfully launched and concluded One Million Signatures Campaign to bring women voice to policy making. She is doing Ph.D. in Social Policy Management from CEDAW and System Thinking perspective. She did her M.Phil. in Management Sciences (Gold Medalist) and M.Sc. in Political Studies (Gold Medalist). She is also a medical practitioner being Radionics Radiesthesia Analyst in Homeopathic Medical Sciences. Apart from her affiliation with United Nations, she also worked with Care International, American Red Cross and Catholic Relief Services.



### **10. Dr. Feriha Peracha, De-Radicalization Expert**

Feriha is Director and Supervising Psychologist for the Sabaoon Project, a school in Pakistan which uses academic and religious education, psychology and other techniques to de-radicalize young boys. Sabaoon is a school working towards the de-radicalization, rehabilitation and integration of child soldiers/militants.



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