

Question for written answer E-003843/2020/rev.1

to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

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Subject: Pakistan's persecution of Christians and Hindus

After the Huma Younus case, another 14-year-old Catholic girl has been kidnapped in Pakistan, forced to marry the kidnapper, renounce her faith, and convert to Islam.

These cases are very serious, but what is truly worrying is the existence of a genuinely perverse system. Every year more than 1 500 Christian girls and women are kidnapped in the same way in Pakistan. The judicial system seems to be part of the problem, as Pakistani courts often rule in favour of the perpetrators.

For families, obtaining the return of their children is becoming an increasingly long and complex legal battle, due to the constant tension in Pakistan between civil law and Islamic religious law, and the difficulties minorities experience in having their fundamental rights recognised.

The Government of Pakistan must take the matter seriously, and take all the necessary measures to stop the forced marriages and conversions of Christian and Hindu girls.

1. What tools does the Vice-President / High Representative want to put in place to safeguard freedom of religion and belief, including that of Christian and Hindu girls in Pakistan?
2. How does the Vice-President / High Representative intend to tackle and solve the problem of the continuing kidnappings of Christian and Hindu girls in Pakistan?