further to amend the Muslim Family Laws Ordinance, 1961
WHEREAS it is expedient further to amend the Muslim Family Laws Ordinance, 1961 (VHI of 1961), in its application to the Islamabad Capital Territory, for the purposes hereinafter appearing;

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

1. Short title and commencement.-(1) This Act shall be called the Muslim Family Laws (Amendment) Act, 2021.
(2) It shall come into force at once.
2. Amendment of section 5, Ordinance VIII of 1961.- In the Muslim Family Laws Ordinance, 1961 (VIII of 1961), hereinafter called as the said Ordinance, in section 5 , in sub-section (4), for the expression ,or with fine which may extend to one thousand rupees, or with both", the expression and fine which may extend to twenty-five thousand rupees" shall be substituted.
3. Amendment of section 7, OrdinanceVIII of 1961.- In the said Ordinance, in section 7,-
(a) for sub-section (1), the following shall be substituted, namely:-
"(1) Any man who wishes to divorce his wife or any woman who exercises her right of talaq-i-tafveez shall, within seven days of the pronouncement of talaq or talaq-i-tafveez, as the case may be, in any form whatsoever, give to the Chairman notice in writing of his or her having done so and shall supply a copy thereof to the other party."; and
(b) after sub-section (1), substituted as aforesaid, the following new sub-section shall be inserted, namely:-
"(1A) Where a man who pronounces talaq in respect of his wife, in any form whatsoever, fails to give to the Chairman notice under sub-section (1), the wife may give notice of the same to the Chairman.,
(1B) Where a woman who pronounces talaq-i-tafveez in respect of her husband, in any form whatsoever, fails to give to the Chairman notice under sub-section (1), the husband may give notice of the same to the Chairman."
4. .. Amendment of section 9, Ordinance VIII of 1961.- In the said Ordinance, in section 9,-
(a) in sub-section (1), after the words "his wife", the expression ",minor children, children with disability and unmarried daughters" shall be inserted; and
(b) after sub-section (1), amended as aforesaid, the following new suisection shall be inserted, namely :-
"(1A) On divorce the wife having a suckling baby shall be entitled to the adequate cost of living for the period she suckles the baby or till a period not exceeding two years, whichever is earlier."

## STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Various forums have raised reservations regarding the Muslim Family Laws Ordinance 1961 and have suggested improvements in the law. The Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan has reviewed the said Law from time to time and has proposed amendments in various sections especially in section 5,7 and 9 of Ordinance. The Ministry of Religious Affairs examined the proposals of the Commission after which the proposals found valid have been drafted in form of a Bill.
2. The Bill aims to include important provisions in the Ordinance related to registration of talaq, maintenance of minor children, children with disability and unmarried daughters which are not mentioned in the present Law.
3. The Bill seeks to achieve the aforesaid objectives.




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