

# NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT

## REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INTERIOR AND NARCOTICS CONTROL ON THE ISLAMABAD CAPITAL TERRITORY DOWRY RESTRAINT BILL, 2025

I, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Interior and Narcotics Control, have the honour to present this report on the Bill to prohibit the giving, taking or demanding dowry [the Islamabad Capital Territory Dowry Restraint Bill, 2025] (Private Member's Bill), referred to the Committee on 14<sup>th</sup> January, 2025.

2. The Committee comprises the following:

1. <b>Raja Khurram Shahzad Nawaz</b>	<b>Chairman</b>
2. Mr. Anjum Aqeel Khan	Member
3. Chaudhary Naseer Ahmed Abbas	Member
4. Syeda Nosheen Iftikhar	Member
5. Malik Shakir Bashir Awan	Member
6. Ch. Muhammad Shahbaz Babar	Member
7. Haji Jamal Shah Kakar	Member
8. Syed Rafiullah	Member
9. Sardar Nabeel Ahmed Gabol	Member
10. Mr. Abdul Qadir Patel	Member
11. Nawabzada Mir Jamal Khan Raisani	Member
12. Khawaja Izhar Ul Hassan	Member
13. Ms. Rana Ansar	Member
14. Mr. Muhammad Ijaz -Ul- Haq	Member
15. Mr. Hussain Ellahi	Member
16. Mr. Shehryar Khan Afridi	Member
17. Mr. Mohammad Jamal Ahsan Khan	Member
18. Mr. Nisar Ahmed	Member
19. Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi	<i>Ex-officio</i> Member
Minister for Interior and Narcotics Control	

3. The Committee considered the Bill, as introduced in the National Assembly, placed at 'Annexure-A', in its meetings held on 26-5-2025, 09-7-2025, 27-8-2025, 24-9-2025, 21-10-2025, 26-11-2025, 23-12-2025 and recommended that the Bill as introduced may not be passed by the National Assembly.

Sd/-  
(Saeed Ahmad Maitla)  
Acting Secretary  
Islamabad, the 13<sup>th</sup> January, 2026

Sd/-  
(Raja Khurram Shahzad Nawaz)  
Chairman

**[AS REPORTED BY THE STANDING COMMITTEE]**

**A  
BILL**

*to prohibit the giving, taking or demanding dowry.*

**WHEREAS** it is expedient to provide for the prohibit the giving, taking or demanding dowry in the Islamabad Capital Territory and for matters connected therewith or ancillary thereto;

It is hereby enacted as follows: -

**1. Short title, extent and commencement.** - (1) This Bill may be called the Islamabad Capital Territory Dowry Restraint Bill, 2025.

(2) It shall extend to the Islamabad Capital Territory.

(3) It shall come into force at once.

**2. Definitions.** - In this Act, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context,-

(a) 'dowry' means money or any other property given before, or after the marriage either directly or indirectly, to the bride by her parents in connection with the marriage but it does not include property which the bride may inherit under the laws of inheritance and succession applicable to her; and

(b) 'marriage' includes betrothal, nikah and rukhsati.

**3. Penalty for giving or taking dowry.** - (1) If any person, after the commencement of this Act, gives or takes or abets the giving or taking of dowry, or enters into an agreement for it thereof, he shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than five years, and with a fine which shall not be less than two hundred and fifty thousand rupees or the amount of the value of such dowry, whichever is more:

Provided that the Court may, for adequate and special reasons to be recorded in the judgement, impose a sentence of imprisonment for a term of less than five years but not less than one year.

(2) Nothing in sub-section (1) shall apply to, or in relation to, -

(a) gifts which are given at the time of a marriage to the bride (without any demand having been made in that behalf):

Provided that such gifts are entered in a list maintained in accordance with the rules made under this Act; and

(b) presents which are given at the time of a marriage to the bridegroom (without any demand having been made in that behalf):

Provided that such gifts are entered in a list maintained in accordance with the rules under this Act:

Provided further that where such gifts are made by or on behalf of the bride or any person related to the bride, such gifts are of customary nature and the value thereof is not excessive having regard to the financial status of the person by whom, or on whose behalf, such gifts are given.

**4. Penalty for demanding dowry.** – If any person demands, directly or indirectly, from the parents or other relatives or guardian of a bride any dowry, he shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than two year, but which may extend to two years and with fine which may extend to two hundred and fifty thousand rupees:

Provided that the Court may, for adequate and special reasons to be mentioned in the judgement, impose a sentence of imprisonment for a term of less than one year but not lesser than eight months.

**5. Ban on advertisement.** – if any person –

(a) Offers, through any advertisement in any newspaper, periodical, journal or through any other media, any share in his property or of any money or both as a share in any business or other interest as consideration for the marriage of his daughter or any other relative:

(b) Prints or publishes or circulates any advertisement referred to in clause (a);

He shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years and with a fine which may extend to one hundred thousand rupees.

Provided that the Court may, for adequate and special reasons to be recorded in the judgement, impose a sentence of imprisonment for a term of less than one year but not lesser than eight months.

**6. Dowry to be for the benefit of the bride or her heirs.** – (1) Where any dowry is received by any person other than the bride, that person shall transfer it to the bride-

(a) If the dowry was received before marriage, within three months after the date of marriage; or

(b) If the dowry was received at the time of or after the marriage, within three months after the date of its receipt.

(2) If any person fails to transfer any property as required by sub-section (1) within the time limit specified thereof, he shall be liable to imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than one year, but which may extend to three years and with a fine

which shall not be less than one hundred and fifty thousand rupees, but which may extend to two hundred and fifty thousand rupees.

(3) Where a person convicted under sub-section (2), for failure to transfer any property as required by sub-section (1), before his conviction under that sub-section, the Court shall, in addition to awarding punishment under that sub-section, direct by order in writing, that such person shall transfer the property to such woman within such period as may be specified in the order, and if such person fails to comply with the direction within the period so specified, an amount equal to the value of the property may be recovered from him as if it were a fine imposed by such Court and paid to such woman or, as the case may be, her heirs, parents or children.

**7. Cognizance of offences.** – (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, -

(a) no Court inferior to that of a Judicial Magistrate of the first class shall try any offence under this Act;

(b) no Court shall take cognizance of an offence under this Act except upon-

- (i) its own knowledge or a police report of the facts which constitute such offence, or;
- (ii) a complaint by the person aggrieved by the offence, or a parent, or a guardian, or any recognized welfare institution or organization, or any person having witnessed or having knowledge of the giving, taking, demand of, or agreement for dowry, including but not limited to individuals associated with the families or parties to the marriage in any capacity.

**8. Offences to be cognizable, non-bailable and non-compoundable.** – Every offence under this Act shall be cognizable, non-bailable and non-compoundable.

**9. Burden of proof.** – Where any person is prosecuted for an offence under this act, the burden of proof shall be on him.

**10. Dowry Prohibition Officers.** - (1) The Federal Government may appoint as many Dowry Prohibition Officers as it thinks fit and specify the areas in respect of which they shall exercise their jurisdiction and powers under this Act.

(2) Every Dowry Prohibition Officer shall exercise and perform the following powers and functions, namely: -

(a) to see that the provisions of this Act are complied with;

(b) to prevent, as far as possible, the offences under this Act;

(c) to collect such evidence as may be necessary for the prosecution of persons committing offences under this Act; and

(d) to perform such additional functions as may be assigned to him by the Federal or Provincial Government, or as may be specified in the rules made under this Act.

(3) The Federal Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, confer such powers of a police officer as may be specified in the notification on the Dowry Prohibition Officer who shall exercise such powers subject to such limitations and conditions as may be specified by the rules under this Act.

(4) The Federal Government may, for the purposes of advising and assisting Dowry Prohibition Officers in the efficient performance of their functions under this Act, appoint an advisory board consisting of not more than five social welfare workers (out of whom at least three shall be women) from the area in respect of which such Dowry Prohibition Officer exercises jurisdiction under sub-section (1).

**11. Power of Government to make rules.** – The Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

**12. Repeal.** - The Dowry and Bridal Gifts (Restriction) Act, 1976 (No. XLIII of 1976) shall stand repealed from the date of coming into force of this Act.

### **STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS**

There is no doubt that dowry is a social evil but still it is practiced in Pakistan. Both literate and illiterate people give and accept dowries from their in-laws. Mostly this problem exists in middle class families and the reasons for that is the greed and demonstration of status. This trend should be discouraged to ensure the women rights. There have been more than four decades and same laws can't be applied in this ever-growing and dynamic society. The government has to enforce all the laws in their true sense and capture the culprits infringing those laws. There should also be a mass awareness campaign to give people a deep understanding of this vice. Education must be given to the under developed areas of the state where lethality is emanating out of this malevolence at a faster pace. The literacy rate of the female population should be enhanced to give them awareness regarding their rights and self-esteem.

SD/-

**MS. SHARMILA SAHIBA FARUQUI HASHAAM**  
Member, National Assembly