



## Human Rights Commission of Pakistan

*Press release*

### **Remembering Asma Jahangir one year on**

*Lahore, 12 February 2019.* One year on, the blow of losing Asma Jahangir has not lessened. But for the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP), which she co-founded in 1987, this loss has translated into a renewed determination to carry her legacy forward.

In a statement issued today, HRCP has said that, 'Today, more than ever, the human rights movement in Pakistan needs a collective conscience. Undoubtedly, were Asma Jahangir still with us, she would have continued to speak up against curbs on freedom of assembly, freedom of movement and freedom of expression. She would have demanded accountability for extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances. She would have defended the vulnerable and marginalized – women, children, peasants and workers, bonded labor, religious and ethnic minorities, and the transgender community. She would have criticized any electoral mismanagement and judicial hyper-activism, but defended the need for democracy and an independent judiciary. And in so doing, she would be speaking for all those who believe in the inalienability of fundamental rights and freedoms.

'Over the last year, HRCP has carried this work forward despite the vacuum left by Ms Jahangir. Her imprint remains on the institution she co-founded and the numerous human rights workers she trained. HRCP's governing body and its staff across the country are committed to continuing Asma Jahangir's work, and will always remember her spirit and steel. As she herself once quipped, "Human rights is not a job, it is a way of life." For HRCP, this still holds true.'

Dr Mehdi Hasan  
Chairperson  
HRCP

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