

The member of the Youth Standing Committee on Law, Parliamentary Affairs, and Human Rights include Abdul Manan (YP17-NWFP06), Lehraip Hayat (YP23-PUNJAB05), Hassan Sajjad Naqvi (YP25-PUNJAB07), Noor Bakht Ghuman (YP28-PUNJAB10), Zile Huma (YP31-PUNJAB13), Muhammad Abdullah Lak (YP36-PUNJAB18), Agha Shakeel Ahmed (YP47-SINDH10) and Chairperson, Gul Andaam Orakzai (YP10-ICT03).

The first session saw the formation of the Committee and a meeting on the last day to lay down the agenda for the duration of the Youth Parliament. The topics included the repeal of 58-2b (which has been taken care of with the 18<sup>th</sup> amendment), and women and labour rights as well.

The second session was a hectic one for the committee. Legal Aid, Child Labour, Harassment of Women were referred to the Committee, as well as a bill was introduced by a few Youth Parliamentarians to check the activities by foreigners and foreign outfits within the country. It led to quite a controversy and some debate as well.

Recommendations for all the above have been made and agreed upon by the members of the Youth Cabinet Committee in question.

The Public Defender and Legal Aid Office Act, 2009 approved by the Parliament was reviewed.

Legislation relating to issues of child labour was reviewed. Members were of the opinion that Employment of Children Act, 1991 needed to be reconciled with Protection of Children Bill, 2009 as pertaining to the age standards. The former differentiates between children (under 14 years of age) and adolescents (between the ages of 14 and 18); whereas the Protection of Children Bill, 2009 covers a host of issues and a child is characterised as any person who has not yet attained the age of 18 years. It is recommended that the distinction between child and adolescent be eliminated in the Employment of Children Act, 1991 as long as it remains in force. Otherwise, the Protection of Children Bill, 2009 is quite a comprehensive document covering all aspects of child protection. The Committee stresses again and again that new legislation is not the solution to problems, rather strict implementation of any legislation is required!

Relating to the harassment of women, a bill was recently approved by the National Assembly which addresses all the issues raised by the mover of the resolution and were discussed on the floor of the Youth Parliament. The legislation under discussion is the Protection against Harassment of Women at the Workplace Act, 2010.

Youth Parliament's own bill is still under review and the report shall be finalised before the fourth session has ended. The bill was initially called "**Disposal of Foreigners Involved in Questionable Activities Against the State**". The Committee has recommended it be called 'The Regulation of Foreigners' Activity Act'. Some technical and legal shortfalls were overcome; and instead of a 'board' for inquiry purposes (as initially suggested by the framers of the Bill) the Committee members feel an 'appellant court' with its own jurisdiction over matters relating to the activities of foreigners within Pakistan. The procedures have been further defined by the Committee and a proper, workable framework has been suggested.

The plan for the next two sessions heavily depends on what kind of legislation (if any) is presented in the house. The topics under discussion at Session IV are National Identity, and Governance and Accountability. Sizeable workload is expected to come the way of the Committee this session.