



Task force constituted to assess plight of street children

By Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Even though it is difficult to assess the number of street children in the capital, it continues to grow with increasing population and rapid urbanisation. Taking these factors into account, negligence in addressing the issues of street children is a problem that has persisted for long in the history of development of metropolitan centres.

This has been highlighted by Federal Ombudsman Ejaz Ahmed Qureshi. In connection with this, a pilot research study to address the plight of street children in Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) has been initiated.

Mr Qureshi has constituted a task force that will assist the research team of Wafaqi Mohtasib Secretariat in carrying out the research study and also suggest the way forward in order to cope with the issue, a statement issued by the secretariat said.

The federal ombudsman is looking into the issues of children in the absence of a child ombudsman in Pakistan.

He said that the study would initially be confined to ICT and would be later replicated in other parts of the country. The objective of this study is to evaluate the plight of street children and devise a mechanism to address these issues, he added.

The task force includes chairperson National Commission on Human Rights of the Child (NCRC) Afshan Tehseen, vice chairperson of Bunyad Foundation Shaheen Atiq ur Rehman, retired Ambassador Fouzia Nasreen, Sahil's Executive Director Manizeh Bano, chief commissioner Islamabad, representatives of Iqra University, Social Welfare Council and Syeda Viqar un Nisa who is the grievance commissioner for children and transgender people.

Daily Times

Karachi Edition

SATURDAY,

April 2, 2022

Shaban 29, 1443

Your Right to Know

f t i /DailyTimesPak

dailytimes.com.pk

Ombudsman initiates pilot project to address plight of street children

The Federal Ombudsman Mr. Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi has initiated a Pilot research study to address the plight of street children in Islamabad Capital Territory. For this purpose, he has constituted a task force which will assist the research team of Wafaqi Mohtasib Secretariat in carrying out the research study and also suggest the way forward to cope with the issue. The Wafaqi Mohtasib Secretariat issued a notification in exercise of the Federal Ombudsman's powers under Article 18 & 19 of P.O.No.1 of 1983. The Federal Ombudsman is looking into the issues of children in the absence of a Child Ombudsman in Pakistan. The Ombudsman said that negligence in addressing the issues of street children is a problem that has persisted for long in the history of development of big metropolitan centers.

He said that though it is difficult to assess the number of street children but unfortunately the number is on the rise with the increase in the country's population while urbanization also continues at a rapid pace. This necessitates a study to gauge the plight of street children. He informed that the study would initially be confined to ICT and would be later replicated in the other parts of the country. The objective of this study is to evaluate the plight of the street children and devise a mechanism to address these issues.

The Task force includes Ms. Afshan Tehseen, Chairperson National Commission on Human Rights of Child (NCR), Ms. Shaheen Atiq ur Rehman, Vice Chairperson of Bunyad Foundation, Ambassador (R) Fouzia Nasreen, Ms. Manizah Bano, ED, NGO Sahil, A senior Officer of Chief Commissioner ICT, A senior Officer of ICT Police, rep. of Iqra University, rep. of Quaid e Azam University, A rep. of Social Welfare Council, ICT and Syeda Viqar un Nisa, Grievance Commissioner for Children & Transgender, WMS as Secretary of the Task Force. **NEWS DESK**

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Rs. 15/- Pages. 8

Saturday, April 2, 2022, Shaban ul Muazzam 29, 1443

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Ombudsman constitutes a task force to study the plight of street children in ICT

ISLAMABAD, April 1: The Hon'ble Federal Ombudsman Mr. Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi has initiated a Pilot research study to address the plight of street children in Islamabad Capital Territory. For this purpose, he has constituted a task force which will assist the research team of Wafaqi Mohtasib Secretariat in carrying out the research study and also suggest the way forward to cope with the issue. The Wafaqi Mohtasib Secretariat issued a notifica-

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