



Journal for Social
Science Archives

Journal for Social Science Archives

Online ISSN: 3006-3310

Print ISSN: 3006-3302

Volume 3, Number 4, 2025, Pages 320 – 331

Journal Home Page

<https://jssarchives.com/index.php/Journal/about>



Assessing the Impact of Regional and International Treaties on the Criminal Justice System of Pakistan: Implementation and Challenges

Dr. Rizwana Gul¹, Bushra Nawaz² & Arooj Aziz Malik³

¹Assistant Professor, Department of Law, Abdul Wali Khan University, Mardan, Email: rizwanagul@awkum.edu.pk

²Lecturer, Department of Law, Mirpur University of Science and Technology, Mirpur, AJK,

Email: Bushra.law@must.edu.pk

³Lecturer, Department of Law, Mirpur University of Science and Technology, Mirpur, AJK,

Email: Arooj.law@must.edu.pk

ARTICLE INFO

Article History:

Received: August 22, 2025
Revised: September 24, 2025
Accepted: October 16, 2025
Available Online: October 29, 2025

Keywords:

International Treaties, Criminal Justice System, Treaty Implementation, ICCPR, CAT, SAARC Convention, Judicial Compliance, Law Enforcement Capacity.

Corresponding Author:

Dr. Rizwana Gul

Email:

rizwanagul@awkum.edu.pk

ABSTRACT

The present research paper takes a stock of comprehensive regional and international treaties impacting the criminal justice system of Pakistan, their ratification, implementation and the post-ratification challenges. It seeks to evaluate a select number of key treaties which bear significant implications for human rights, law enforcement practices and judicial reforms in Pakistan such as: the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), and the Convention against Torture (CAT). Using an exhaustive exegesis of legal documents, government reports and expert interviews, this paper studies Pakistani adherence to and compliance with these treaties to reveal a nuanced scenario of incomplete implementations, legislative dissonance and operational difficulties. Pakistan has made considerable advances in ratifying multiple core instruments; nonetheless, the transposing of these obligations into effective internal legal and implementation mechanisms is irregular. International legal standards cannot be implemented fully due to challenges like legislative gaps, insufficient institutional capacities and absence of awareness in judiciary and law enforcement agencies. While several illustrations of progressive legal reforms and judicial decisions in line with international commitments are identified in the research, the study shows a clear need for a more comprehensive strategy to close the implementation gap. Treaty implementation in Pakistan remains more than merely fashioning compliance with international obligations; it is vital to the development and reform of Pakistani criminal justice towards fairness, accountability, and human rights respect.



Introduction

In criminal justice, regional and international treaties are essential legal frameworks to unify practices and protect rights and promote cooperation between nations (Hart's, 1994). Such treaties address issues ranging from combating terrorism, trafficking, and torture to the rights of detainees and the way courts administer justice. The importance of detailing these two treaties is further underscored by the fact that countries such as Pakistan, geographically at the crossroads of South Asia and the Middle East, faced with a variety of security, social and legal challenges as it is, must uphold and enforce these treaties.

Pakistan shares some of those troubled areas and remains a principal player in regional security dynamics, making it virtually impossible for the country to remain in silo and aloof from international criminal justice norms and practices (Ali and Rahman, 2017). Firstly, the ordinary socio-legal context in Pakistan, a country with a rich cultural diversity and a complicated legal structure - offers both unique strengths and hindrances in aligning domestic laws with international obligations. Such an alignment would not only leave positive impacts on the country's legal and human rights framework but would also allow the country to reach out to other international game-changers and place itself in a better position to fulfil its global obligations.

In this context, this research seeks to evaluate Pakistan's accession to regional and global criminal justice arrangements through the following objectives and research questions:

Research Objectives

1. To determine the significant International and regional treaties regarding criminal justice which Pakistan has ratified and by which date.
2. To assess the implementation status of these treaties within Pakistan's criminal justice system.
3. To identify challenges hindering effective implementation and their impact on the justice system.
4. To recommend strategies for improving the alignment between Pakistan's domestic legal practices and its international treaty obligations.

Research Questions

1. What are the key regional and international treaties related to criminal justice that Pakistan has ratified, and what obligations do these treaties entail?
2. How effectively have these treaties been implemented within Pakistan's criminal justice system?
3. What are the main barriers to the effective implementation of these treaties in Pakistan?
4. What impact does the current level of treaty implementation have on the functionality and integrity of Pakistan's criminal justice system?
5. What measures can be taken to enhance the implementation of international legal standards within the criminal justice system of Pakistan?

By addressing these objectives and research questions, this study endeavors to shed light on the intricacies of treaty implementation in Pakistan, offering insights into the country's efforts to reconcile its legal framework with international standards. This investigation aims to contribute to

the broader discourse on human rights, legal reform, and the role of international treaties in shaping the criminal justice systems of countries navigating complex socio-legal terrains.

Literature Review

The literature review necessitates a thorough examination of existing scholarly works that cover the intersection of international legal frameworks with national criminal justice systems, with a special focus on Pakistan. This review not only synthesizes findings from previous studies but also identifies where more research is needed, especially concerning the most current status of treaty implementation and its effectiveness.

International Legal Frameworks and National Criminal Justice Systems

The integration of international legal norms in national jurisdictions has been a narrative thread in a large body of scholarly literature, which underscores the two-fold function of these frameworks as norm-setting instruments globally and engines for transformation locally in domestic legal systems. (Merry, 2006) and (Sands, 2018) catalogue the roles of international human rights treaties in measuring and benchmarking national criminal justice practices. They suggest that these treaties create a space for transnational legal dialogue leading to an aligning of norms across different countries, albeit with some variations in compliance and enforcement.

Treaty Adoption and Implementation in Pakistan

For example, Pakistan's compliance with International treaties generally related to human rights and criminal justice have been examined by (Cheema, 2014), and (Hassan, 2019). Pointing to Pakistan's ratification of important treaties such as the ICCPR and the CAT, Cheema examines legislative and policy initiatives to make its domestic laws compatible with these international obligations. But in terms of practical realization, Hassan says there is tremendous distance between ratification and actual implementation due to deficiencies of political will, institutional capacities and of awareness capacities of the legal practitioners including law enforcing agencies.

Various aspects of Pakistan criminal justice system; police reforms, treatment of detainees, and the judicial process, was affected by international treaties is thoroughly discussed (Ali and Rehman, 2017). In their view, although the package of amendments to the Pakistan Penal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure may constitute some progress, such changes have failed to bring the relevant definitions and practices into line with the treaties.

Gaps in the Literature

While these pieces of work have done their best to fill this gap, there is still much to be written on how the treaty implementation is currently looking in Pakistan and how far, and into what kind of changes, it has translated itself into the criminal justice system. There is also limited attention on recent changes in the law and in judicial practice since 2019, demanding further investigatory analyses that respond to the contemporary moment. The academic research on this type of issue could also be considered scant, and only a little has been published that address the operational challenges for legal professionals, law enforcement officers, and the judiciary in the field and how they understand and apply the international legal standards in their everyday work.

Further, there exists a gap in the literature related to a thorough analysis of the system-based and structural obstacles to effective execution such as socio-political realities, limited resources and the influence of customary legal cultures. Such insights are essential in deepening the understanding of the challenges at play in the harmonization of international treaties with national laws and practices.

This review highlights the role of international legal frameworks in determining national criminal justice systems in context of Pakistan. Current research builds our understanding of how countries engage with and accept international treaties, yet few studies have emerged that tackle the newly identified implementation gap, assess the impacts of such efforts and the concerns, challenges and operations on the ground. It would be a great addition to the current debate on legal reform and human rights protection in Pakistan, providing useful information for future policy, practice and research in the field of law.

Theoretical Framework

A critical analysis of how international treaties are executed in the national criminal justice systems, specifically in Pakistan, requires a theoretical framework that delves into the legal theories and concepts that can facilitate a discussion on the interaction of international judiciary norms with the municipal law. This inquiry includes dualist and monist theories, the principles of complementarity and international law implementation, which all suggest how, and why states incorporate international treaties into their domestic legal system.

Dualism and Monism

Dualism and Monism as theories of the relationship of international law to national law offer the opposite ends to one another. According to dualism, there is a division between the international and national legal system which means that an act of express adoption into domestic law is necessary before an international treaty can be regarded as part of that domestic law. This view underlines the fact that the nation-state is the sovereign and therefore that it is its choice to decide how to internalize international legal standards in its legal order (Hart, 1994). In contradistinction to dualism, monism considers the international and national legal systems as one and the same legal order and, accordingly, holds that international treaties are automatically incorporated into national law upon ratification and do not require further legislative action at the domestic level (Kelsen 1945). Pakistan is a dualist in nature for which specific enactment is mandatory for implementing international obligations under the national law of the country.

Principle of Complementarity

The principle of complementarity, which is important with the ICC and human rights treaties, says that international legal mechanisms should supplement, rather than replace, national legal systems. This is well grounded in the principle of respect for national sovereignty and the primary responsibility of states to enforce their laws and administer justice.

It implies that international intervention, whether in the form of treaty obligations or judicial action, should occur only when national systems are unable or unwilling to fulfill their legal responsibilities (El Zeidy, 2008).

Theories of International Law Compliance

Theories of international law compliance delve into why and how states adhere to their treaty obligations. Normative theories suggest that states comply with international treaties based on a sense of legal obligation and moral commitment to upholding universally recognized norms (Franck, 1990). In contrast, instrumental theories propose that compliance is driven by rational calculations of self-interest, where states weigh the benefits of adherence against the costs of non-compliance, considering factors such as international reputation, economic incentives, and potential sanctions (Downs, Rocke, & Barsoom, 1996).

Additionally, constructivist approaches highlight the influence of international legal norms on state identities and interests arguing that compliance is facilitated through the internalization of these norms into the national value system and legal culture (Finnemore and Sikkink 1998). Such a view has significance in demonstrating the catalytic potential of international treaties to spur local and social change within the boundaries of States.

Influencing Adoption and Implementation

Adoption and successful incorporation of an international treaty into the legal framework of a State are influenced by a number of reasons such as:

Political Will: The dedication of political leaders and policymakers to international standards and their willingness to undertake binding legislative or policy adjustments.

Legal Infrastructure: Compliance of the legal system, laws, organizations and individuals responsible to accommodate and enforce international standards.

Civil Society and Public Opinion: The influence of NGOs, media and public opinion in promoting the implementation of treaties by the government.

International Pressure and Cooperation: the role of international organizations, peer states, and regional organizations in strengthening compliance with and commitment to international treaties.

It is not only possible but also required to comprehend these theories and factors to view the intricate procedures of international treaty-settling within the criminal justice system of Pakistan that may offer a theoretical background to understand the problems and strategies in domestication of international legal standards.

Methodology

This research applies a mixed-methods approach to perform an exhaustive analysis of the status of implementation of international treaties within the parameters of the criminal justice system in the state of Pakistan. The methodology combines a range of different qualitative and quantitative methods of collecting and analyzing data in order to provide an in-depth insight into the domestic processes involved in adopting, adapting and using international legal norms within Pakistan. The section that follows outlines the research design and data sources used to operationalize the indicators used to evaluate treaty commitment to criminal justice and their impact on the criminal justice system.

Research Design

The research design of the study is mixed, combining document analysis, interviews and cases. This methodology permits a close reading of legal materials and policy documents, expert insights from practitioner experience, and in-depth case studies of treaty implementation. The mixed-methods design will produce sector-level and case-study results, combining a comprehensive evaluation of the legal and institutional framework with a closer examination of the success or challenges in the operation of international treaties.

Data Collection Methods

Review of international treaties to which Pakistan is a party, relevant domestic legislation, judicial decisions, and legal commentaries in order to evaluate both formal compliance and domestication of international law into domestic law.

Examination of Pakistan reporting to treaty bodies and design of reasons of action as well as policy papers linked to reform in criminal justice and human rights protection.

Interview stakeholders from various backgrounds including legal scholars, human rights lawyers, judges and prosecutors, and the staff of non-government organizations (NGOs) specializing in legal reform. The interviews hope to better understand how the implementation of the treaty is perceived to be, challenges are faced in implementing the treaty on the ground. Case studies that reflect the implementation or impediments of treaty within the criminal justice system of Pakistan and Those might be groundbreaking legal cases, changes in policies, or certain events that have challenged the implementation of international norms. The case studies should be illustrative of the influences of treaties on legal and judicial practice.

Data Sources

International agreements, state laws, official national reports, and case laws. (UN bodies, human rights NGOs), Media articles. Standards for Evaluating the Status and Impact of Implementation are the following;

1. Legislative and Policy Alignment - Indicates how much Pakistani laws and policies have been modified or introduced to reflect treaty obligations
2. Institutional Capacity and Resources: Examination of the ability of law enforcement, judiciary, and other relevant government departments to implement the provisions of the treaty, e.g. levels of training, resources, infrastructure.
3. Judicial Application: Examination of the relevance of international provisions of a treaty in court decisions, how often, and with what success.
4. Compliance and Reporting: Pakistan's relationship with treaty bodies, initial implementation of recommendations, and engagement with treaty bodies; the frequency and quality of state reports and responses to recommendations, and engagement in review processes.
5. Impact on Criminal Justice Practices: Analysis of the legal aspects of changes in criminal justice practices that result from the implementation of the treaties, such as increased detainee treatment, investigation procedures, and fair trials.
6. Challenges and Barriers: Identification of legal, institutional, and cultural challenges to effective treaty implementation, Review of legal challenges, Case study findings. This paper aims to serve as a holistic evaluative framework of Pakistan implementing international treaties in criminal justice by merging normative legal assessment with ground realities on the implementation paradigms and dynamics of compliance and impact.

Overview and Analysis of Key Treaties

Pakistan is a party to various international and regional conventions which has been influential in the formation of the country's criminal justice system. These are the treaties which are the commitments of each other to protect human rights, prevent crime, etc. and likewise. Notable among these are:

1. *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights ICCPR (Ratified by Pakistan in 2010*: to protect civil and political rights, such as the rights to life, freedom from torture, fair trial and, freedom of expression) Now they are the human rights courts and committees which oblige States to align their laws and practices with these standards.

2. *Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT)*: Pakistan has been a state party to the CAT since 2010, wherein it obligated itself to prevent acts of torture within its territorial jurisdiction. They include the elaboration of legal frameworks to prevent torture, punish the perpetrators and redress the victims.
3. *SAARC Convention on preventing and combating trafficking in Women and Children for prostitution*: As A signatory to this convention Pakistan being part of South Asian regional organization SAARC aims at combating trafficking in women and children for prostitution at the regional level thereby protecting and rehabilitating the victims.

Provision of Legislative and Policy Measures

Pakistan has implemented legislation and have made legislation and policy commitments to bring its legal system in conformity with the obligations under these treaties.

- Amendments to the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC) and Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC): These amendments will bring the PPC and CrPC in line with the provisions of the ICCPR and CAT regarding protection against torture, security of trafficked persons and enlargement of the rights to fair trial.
- National Action Plan for Human Rights (2016): This plan outlines strategies to enhance human rights protections with concrete measures focusing on key issues such as torture, children and women trafficking and the guarantee of civil liberties in line with international commitments.
- Establishment of Human Rights Institutions: The creation of the National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) and provincial human rights commissions are steps toward institutionalizing the oversight and promotion of human rights practices.

Actual Implementation Status

Despite these measures, the actual implementation of treaty provisions presents a mixed picture:

- Case Law: Judicial decisions increasingly reference international treaties like the ICCPR and CAT, particularly in cases related to the right to a fair trial, freedom from torture, and the death penalty. However, the application remains inconsistent, with some courts demonstrating reluctance to directly apply international law in domestic cases.
- Legal Reforms: Legal reforms aimed at aligning domestic laws with international treaties have been implemented to varying degrees of success. The Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Act, 2018 is a good example towards compliance of Pakistan with its obligations under the SAARC Convention However, the absence of the legislation particularly regarding the definition and prohibition of torture in conformity with the CAT results under-compliance.
- Interviews with Practitioners: Interviews with legal experts and practitioners in Zambia and South Africa suggest that awareness of international treaty obligations is on the rise within the police, judiciary and legal profession, if still patchy in some respects. The need for training programs and capacity building is frequently mentioned as an essential condition for a better understanding and utilization of treaty provisions in practice.
- Obstacles to Implementation: Interviews and case studies reveal that resource constraints, insufficient political commitment, and cultural norms pose obstacles in translating treaty commitments into meaningful practice Investigative capacities and victim support services is woefully underfinanced in the enforcement architecture that combat torture and trafficking.

- While Pakistan has taken significant steps in ratifying important international and regional treaties and introducing reform to fulfill these obligations, the impact of these attempts has mixed responses across different PIL areas. The omissions by domestic legislation and their practical enforcement provide a real gap that should open the way for more work on training, public awareness, institutional capacity-building, for the full application of the rights potentially recognized in these treaties.

Challenges in Implementation

The end result derived from the international treaty implementation in Pakistan the criminal justice system is a complicated process, as it is full of challenges that result in the country lagging in fulfilling its obligations under these treaties. Although Pakistan is a state party to several major human rights treaties, which include the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the Convention against Torture (CAT), and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Convention against Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution purposes, the country still has many challenges in domesticating its legal and institutional mechanisms in line with international standards (Hassan's, 2019). This section highlights the major problems faced in the process of implementation, and ways in which they limit the effectiveness of treaty implementation.

Legislative Gaps

One of the main challenges is the lack of conformity between national laws and the terms of international treaties. Although Pakistan has endeavored to integrate treaty obligations into its legal system, there are situations where domestic legislation falls short of international standards, or even conflict directly against them (Cheema, 2014). For instance, some practices which can be classified as torture in accordance to the CAT are not outright outlawed by Pakistani law, and this creates a legal grey area and hinders the prosecution for such measures.

Lack of Resources

International treaties are resource-intensive to implement, often requiring substantial financial investment, human capital, and infrastructure. The demands are predicated on Pakistan's criminal justice system, which is a resource-starved one. Inadequate facilities, equipment and personnel curtail many aspects of the system from the investigation and prosecution of crimes to the treatment of detainees and hence hamper the country in meeting its obligations under the treaty.

Political Will

The enforcement of international treaties depends largely on political will, or a lack of it. The importance of treaty obligations depends on the political climate, with a relatively few administrations being notably more assiduous in enforcing human rights and international norms than others. Such variation introduces a lack of predictability to the application of reforms, rendering long-term reform of the criminal justice system internationally inconsistent.

Law Enforcement and Judiciary Training

The efficient operationalization of the international treaties also hinges upon the knowledge of and adherence to these standards by police and judicial authorities. While criminal law systems may formally accede to relevant human rights treaties, states often fail to put in place integrated training programs on international human rights law and treaty obligations these gaps create a divide between the formal endorsement of treaties and their implementation in day to day functioning of the criminal justice system. They had no specialized training; in general, they did not understand

international standards, so that they misinterpreted them, or simply remained ignorant of them, and the actual quality of justice delivery could not be improved.

Impact on Effectiveness of Treaty Implementation

These issues categorically detract from the compliance of Pakistan's criminal justice system with the treaty. If there are legal gaps or inconsistencies in the existing legislation, there will create ambiguity that can be taken advantage of to commit violations, and rights cannot be fully protected. Progress in aligning domestic practice with international standards can be stalled or reversed by resource constraints; though more seriously by a lack of political will. Yet treaty provisions effectively remain a dead letter due to a lack of capacity and a failing of relevant authorities to understand that the essence of a fair, timely, and impartial criminal justice system is the successful arrest, prosecution, and conviction of suspects.

Overcoming these challenges necessitates a flexible strategy which incorporates legislative reforms aimed at eliminating legislative silences, enhanced budgets for criminal justice, unwavering political will anchored upon human rights principles, and comprehensive multi-stakeholder capacity building. It is only through a properly concerted effort that Pakistan will overcome these hurdles and fully realize its international obligations regarding criminal justice system.

Recommendations for Improving Implementation

In light of the aforesaid, a number of recommendations and strategies can be suggested in order to improve the enforcement of international treaties in Pakistan's criminal justice system. The recommendations will be aimed to strengthen implementation of the international standards, to enhance legal-institutional frameworks and to facilitate an environment for protection and promotion of human rights.

Legal Reforms

1. **Implementation** Domestic Legislation that is consistent with International Obligations a comprehensive review for full identification of all legislation that is incompatible with obligations under international treaties. Existing definitions with international law standards, such as torture and trafficking, could be updated, and domestic laws could contain penalties and remedies which recognized the gravity of the violations.

2. **Adopt Specific Legislation for Treaty Implementation:** Where necessary, enact new laws on international treaties in the field to provide for monitoring and enforcement mechanisms. It will give the processes used to implement treaty obligations a clear legal foundation, making their compliance more effective.

3. **Increase Capacity of the Institutions:** Provide sufficient resources for the judiciary, police and prison, etc., the main institutions involved in criminal justice, enable them to fulfil their roles in compliance with international standards. It may include investments in infrastructure, technology, and human capital.

4. **Design Training Programs:** Develop continuing training programs for the police, judiciary, judges and legal practitioners on international human rights law and the specific terms of those treaties for which Pakistan has ratified. The training should include emphasis on how to apply these standards in everyday operations and decisions.

5. Promoting Tribunal Awareness: To raise awareness on the implications for people rights and criminal justice in Pakistan street sensationalizing international treaties with involvement of (NGO's, community organizations and media). Civil society can help ensure that States comply with their treaty obligations.

6. Dialogue with international bodies: Deepen engagement with the international human rights system through regular reports to international treaty bodies, engaging with United Nations agencies and other international organizations, attending reviews and follow-up on recommendations. This dialogue can help improve implementation of the treaties.

7. Engagement in International Training and Exchange Programs: Explore opportunities to participate in international training and capacity-building programs for government officials, judiciary, and law enforcement personnel. Such programs could serve as helpful guides to how certain aspects of implementing international standards might work out the best and it has to be implemented differently.

8. Strengthen Regional Relationships: Work with other nations, as well as regional organizations, to share and address challenges in the implementation of treaties in areas including cross-border trafficking and terrorism. Regional connections can promote information, resource sharing, and voice on common (legal) and human rights' concerns.

9. Establish Independent Oversight: Implement mechanisms led by independent national entities, such as human rights commissions, to monitor and verify the compliance of international treaties and to investigate infringements. These entities, these bodies, they have to be empowered to recommend, they have to be empowered to pin and bend government itself if leading government agencies are not following.

10. Establish Robust Reporting and Oversight: Create transparent rules for tracking how well treaties are being implemented (both within government agencies, to the public and international entities.) Transparency and accountability are important so we can actually measure if it works and then how to make it better.

Pakistan will thus make its criminal justice system more compatible with the international treaties and will comply with international obligations for the promotion of human rights and a fair and effective legal system.

This paper has endeavored to critically examine the status of the implementation of regional and international treaties within Pakistan Criminal justice system in respect of some important instruments like International covenant on civil and Political rights (ICCPR), Convention against Torture (CAT) and SAARC convention on preventing and combating trafficking in women and children for prostitution. Although Pakistan is officially committed to these treaties, the analysis reveals a nuanced picture of compliance that reflects incomplete laws, institutional deficiencies, and differences in political will and allocation of resources.

Main Findings

1. Legal and Policy Measures Pakistan has carried out legislative reforms in accordance with the international obligations. Nevertheless, inconsistencies around compliance - some laws fail to fully implement treaty principles, meaning their ability to protect rights are limited when people face the criminal justice system.
2. Challenges in Implementation: The study points to numerous challenges such as inadequate resources, lack of proper training for police and judiciary, and more robust areas of political

commitment to human rights-based standards. These factors cause delays in ratification and ratification in implementation.

3. Impact on Criminal Justice System: The non-implementation of the International treaties ratify by Pakistan until now affecting the pace & efficacy, fairness & human rights compatibility of Pakistan's Criminal Justice System. So, the untapped power of these international treaties as a leverage to push systemic changes that could better the delivery of justice is left largely unexplored, he said.

Development and Reform Implications

The results indicate the importance of an approach that supports and concentrates on effective and complete implementation of the treaty while facilitating the development, improvement, or reform of the criminal justice system in Pakistan. Better adherence to international standard can help safeguard human rights and improve accountability and public confidence in justice. The process of responding to these challenges could also enhance Pakistan's global position and respect for the rule of law.

Conclusion and Future Research Direction

Degrees of treaty functioning, the durability of reforms or interventions, longitudinally tracking shifts in treaty operation Centralized analyses, comparing to other countries, the better practices and lessons learned in incorporation of international treaties in national legal systems.

An impact assessment to measure concrete advantages treaty implementation bring to our life and rights for people who find themselves inside the criminal justice system.

The implications of strengthened treaty implementation for Pakistan's local criminal justice systems and the broader imperatives of peace, security, and human development are significant and long-term. Pakistan has the potential to tread towards a society based on justice, equality values, and human dignity if it demonstrates compliance with its international commitments in true spirits.

This research identified that action is needed to bridge the gap between international commitments and their implementation. This is where the endeavors of legal, institutional, and societal reforms must persist, as Pakistan continues to struggle in fulfilling the demands of international conventions. Together with continued political will this impetus provides a unique opportunity to realize the transformative potential of these treaties and would represent a major step-change in the modernization of Pakistan's criminal justice system.

References

1. Ali, A., & Rehman, J. (2017). *The impact of international human rights law on the legal system of Pakistan*. Oxford University Press.
2. Cheema, P. (2014). *Legislative reforms and the implementation of human rights treaties in Pakistan*. Human Rights Quarterly, 36(2), 390-415.
3. Downs, G. W., Rocke, D. M., & Barsoom, P. N. (1996). Is the good news about compliance good news about cooperation? *International Organization*, 50(3), 379-406.
4. El Zeidy, M. M. (2008). *The principle of complementarity in international criminal law: Origin, development and practice*. Martinus Nijhoff Publishers.
5. Finnemore, M., & Sikkink, K. (1998). International norm dynamics and political change. *International Organization*, 52(4), 887-917.
6. Franck, T. M. (1990). *The power of legitimacy among nations*. Oxford University Press.
7. Hart, H. L. A. (1994). *The concept of law*. Clarendon Press.

8. Hassan, S. (2019). *Challenges in the implementation of international treaties in Pakistan's criminal justice system*. Journal of Law and Social Challenges, 21(1), 108-134.
9. Kelsen, H. (1945). *General theory of law and state*. Harvard University Press.
10. Merry, S. E. (2006). *Human rights and gender violence: Translating international law into local justice*. University of Chicago Press.
11. Sands, P. (2018). *Principles of international environmental law*. Cambridge University Press.
12. Government of Pakistan. (2015). *National report submitted in accordance with paragraph 5 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 16/21*. United Nations General Assembly.
13. United Nations. (1996). *ICCPR: International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights*.
14. United Nations. (1984). *Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment*.
15. SAARC. (2002). *SAARC Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution*.