

**MAPPING VIOLENCE
AGAINST CHILDREN
IN ISLAMABAD,
PAKISTAN, 2024**

Acknowledgments

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August 2025

Sustainable Social Development Organization (SSDO) would welcome the reproduction and dissemination of the contents of the report with due acknowledgments.

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ISBN: 978-627-7694-19-7

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Background:

The Sustainable Social Development Organization (SSDO) has prepared this report to analyse the state of violence against children in Islamabad. Focusing on eight key indicators: child trafficking, child marriage, child labor, physical abuse, sexual abuse, kidnapping/abduction, murder/homicide, and child pornography. Data was obtained through Right to Information (RTI) law from Islamabad Police. The report presents the total number of cases reported in 2024. It not only records the number of registered cases but also tracks the entire legal process showing how many cases are currently under trial, how many have led to convictions, how many were withdrawn, and how many ended in acquittals. The analysis further highlights differences in prevalence across various crimes, with offences like sexual abuse and kidnapping reported at higher rates than others, such as child physical abuse and child trafficking.

Objective of Research:

Analyzing conviction rate in Islamabad to determine whether registered cases are resulting in convictions.

Result and Discussion:

Districts	S. No	Case Type	Total cases registered	Under Investigation	Challan Submitted	Under Trial	Conviction	Acquittal	Withdrawn
Islamabad	1	Child trafficking under the prevention of trafficking in person act, 2018	2	–	2	2	–	–	–
	2	Child Labor	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
	3	Child Marriage	6	–	6	6	–	–	–
	4	Child Physical Abuse	14	1	12	11	–	–	1
	5	Child Sexual Abuse	48	4	44	42	–	–	–
	6	Child Kidnapping	68	19 UNV/ 1 cancel	10	10	–	–	38
	7	Child Murder/Homicides	2	1	1	0	–	0	–
	8	Child Pornography	2	1	1	1	–	–	–
		Total	142	26 unv / 1 cancel	76	72	0	0	39

According to 2024 data from Islamabad, kidnapping was the most reported crime with 68 cases, followed closely by 48 cases of sexual abuse. Of the kidnapping cases, 19 are under investigation, 1 was cancelled, and 38 were withdrawn. Challans were submitted in 10 cases, all of which are currently under trial. For sexual abuse, challans were submitted in 44 cases, with 42 under trial and 4 still under investigation. Not a single conviction was recorded for either crime. In 2024, 14 cases of physical abuse were reported. Challans were submitted in 12 cases, with 11 currently under trial and 1 under investigation. One case was withdrawn, and none resulted in conviction. Regarding child marriage, six cases were reported, challans were submitted for all, and each case is presently under trial.

In 2024, two cases each of child trafficking, child marriage/homicide, and child pornography were reported. For child trafficking, challans were submitted in both cases, and both remain under trial. In child marriage/homicide, one case is under investigation and the other has a submitted challan.

For child pornography, one case is under investigation, while the other has a submitted challan and is currently under trial. No convictions were recorded for any of these offences.


The data reflects a troubling pattern of high case withdrawals, prolonged trials, and zero convictions across serious offences involving children. This indicates significant systemic gaps in the criminal justice process, including inadequate investigation techniques, weak evidence- gathering, and insufficient victim and witness protection mechanisms. The absence of convictions despite the filing of challans suggests that both investigative and prosecutorial stages require urgent strengthening. Furthermore, the high number of withdrawn cases points to potential intimidation, social pressures, or lack of confidence in the justice system among victims and their families. Addressing these issues will require targeted reforms in policing, prosecution, and judicial procedures, alongside comprehensive victim support services to ensure cases are pursued to their conclusion.

Recommendations:

1. Establish specialized investigation units for crimes against women and children, equipped with trained personnel, forensic resources, and victim-sensitive procedures. Ensure close coordination between police, prosecutors, and medico-legal staff to improve the quality of evidence, reduce case withdrawals, and increase conviction rates.
2. Introduce robust victim and witness protection programs, including psychological counselling, legal aid, and safe shelter facilities. These services should be designed to encourage survivors and their families to pursue cases through trial, thereby reducing case withdrawals and improving justice outcomes.
3. Combine awareness of kidnapping, sexual abuse and child trafficking indicators with reporting routes. Engage schools, madrassas, community and religious leaders to change norms and encourage reporting.
4. Fast-track courts should be established for cases involving kidnapping, sexual abuse, and other crimes against women and children to ensure timely adjudication. Judicial officers handling such cases should receive specialized training on gender- and child-sensitive procedures to prevent delays and improve conviction rates.



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