



## THE WOMEN IN DISTRESS AND DETENTION FUND ACT, 1996



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# THE WOMEN INN DISTRESS AND DETENTION FUND ACT, 1996

## ACT NO. XV OF 1996

*An Act to establish a fund for women in distress and detention*

Whereas it is expedient to provide for establishment of a fund for women in distress and detention in need of legal aid and assistance and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto;

It is hereby enacted as follows: —

**1. Short title, extent and commencement.**—(1) This Act may be called the Women in Distress and Detention Fund Act, 1996.

(2) It extends to the whole of Pakistan.

(3) It shall come into force at once.

**2. Definitions.** In this Act, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context—

(a) “Board means the Board Governors set up under section 6 ;

(b) “Fund” means the Fund for women in Distress and Detention established under section 3; and

(c) “women in distress and detention” means a female or a class of females in need of financial assistance to alleviate her or their miseries due to detention, litigation or for similar connected matters.

**3. Establishment of the Fund.** The Federal Government shall establish the Fund for Women in Distress and Detention to carry out the purposes of this Act.

**4. Purpose of the Fund.** The purpose of the Fund shall be to provide financial and legal assistance to women in distress and detention.

**5. Sources of Fund.**—(1) The Fund shall consist of the following sources, namely:—

(a) grants from the Federal Government and Provincial Governments;

(b) aid and assistance from local, national and international agencies;

(c) contributions from the statutory bodies, corporations, private organizations and individuals; <sup>1</sup>[\*\*]

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<sup>1</sup> Amended by Ord. 112 of 2002, s.2.

(d) income and earnings from the moveable and immovable proerties acquired or leased by the fund; <sup>1</sup>[and]

(e) <sup>1</sup>[any income from the investment of the amount credited to the Fund.]

(2)The amount credited to the Fund shall not lapse at the end of a financial year and shall be available for utilization at any time.

**6. Board of Governors.**—(1) The management, overall control and supervision of the affairs of the Fund shall vest in a Board of Governors consisting of the following members, namely :—

(i) Federal Minister for <sup>2</sup>[Human Rights]..... Chairman

(ii) Secretary, Ministry of <sup>2</sup>[Human Rights]..... Member

(iii) One female member each of the National Assembly and Senate, to be nominated by the respective Houses.....Members

(iv) Two prominent female social workers from each Province, to be nominated by the Provincial Governments.....*Members*

(v) Provincial Home Secretaries.....*Members*

(vi) Secretary of the Women Division.....*Member*

(vii) Secretary of the Interior Division.....*Member*

(viii) Joint Secretary, Ministry of <sup>2</sup>[Human Rights.] .....*Member/Secretary*

(2)The members of the Board, other than ex-officio members, shall hold office for a term of three years and shall be eligible for re-appointment.

(3)No act or proceeding of the Board shall be invalid merely on the ground of existence of any vacancy or defect in the constitution of the Board.

(4)The Board may coopt any other persons for performance of its functions.

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<sup>1</sup>Amended by Ord. 112 of 2002,s.2.

<sup>2</sup> Subs. by Act 1 of 2012,s.2.

(5)The Secretariat of the Board shall be at Islamabad.

(6)The Board may appoint an executive committee for carrying out its functions as may be assigned to it by the Board.

(7)The meeting of the Board shall be presided over by the Chairman or, in his absence, by the Secretary, Ministry of <sup>1</sup>[Human Rights.]

**7. Functions and powers of the Board.** The Board shall—

- (a) sanction disbursement out of the fund amongst women in distress and detention;
- (b) make appointment of the staff of the Board;
- (c) acquire, sell and purchase property of the fund; and
- (d) manage and control the fund.

**8. Exemption from tax.** Notwithstanding anything contained in the Income Tax Ordinance, 1979, ([XXXI of 1979](#)). Wealth Tax Act, 1963, (XV of 1963). Zakat and Ushr Ordinance, 1980, ([XVIII of 1980](#)), all contributions and donations to be Fund shall be exempt from levy of these taxes and deduction of Zakat.

**9. Accounts of the Fund, etc.** — (1) The accounts of the Fund shall be audited by the Auditor-General of Pakistan and shall be laid before the National Assembly.

(2) The Board shall, periodically, submit reports to the Federal Government relating to the Fund and its activities.

**10. Delegation of Powers.** The Board may delegate all or any its powers and functions to the Chairman or a member of the Board, executive committee, Provincial Government or any other authority as it may deem fit.

**11. Rules.**—(1) The Board may make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

(2) In particular and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing provision, such rules may include—

- (a) procedure for disbursement of the fund ;
- (b) resignation of non-official members ; and
- (c) appointment of members on seats becoming vacant due to death or resignation of a non-official member.

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[1] <sup>1</sup>Subs. by Act I of 2012. s.2.

