

## **Terms of reference: Study on national preventive mechanism against torture**

The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) seeks to commission a study examining the legal, institutional, and operational requirements of establishing a national preventive mechanism (NPM) under the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (OPCAT) in the event of Pakistan's accession.

Drawing on desk-based legal analysis, comparative institutional research, and online interviews with key stakeholders, the report is designed to (a) assess whether Pakistan should designate the National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) as its NPM (with or without reforms) or establish an independent NPM, and (b) make clear recommendations on the most viable institutional path forward.

The consultant is required to produce a comprehensive study of approximately 10,000–12,000 words highlighting:

- The preventive oversight model established by OPCAT  
The legal, institutional, and operational requirements that an NPM must satisfy under OPCAT and SPT guidelines
- Lessons from regional and global NPM models relevant to Pakistan  
An assessment of the NCHR's current mandate, structure, capacity (including resources and expertise), access to places of detention (including those apart from jails and prisons), and independence against these requirements
- A determination of the most institutionally viable path (designation of the NCHR with or without reforms, or establishment of an independent NPM) and the legislative, structural, and resource changes each scenario would require
- Recommendations on the broader preconditions for meaningful OPCAT accession in Pakistan's current political and institutional environment

In addition, the consultant is required to (a) produce a policy brief of 2,000–3,000 words distilling key findings and recommendations for a policy and advocacy audience, and (b) deliver a presentation of their findings to relevant stakeholders, including civil society actors, on completion.