

FIRST SESSION

REPORT

OF 18TH YOUTH
PARLIAMENT PAKISTAN®
DECEMBER 02, 2023, ISLAMABAD



First Session Report of 18th Youth Parliament Pakistan®

December 02, 2023, Islamabad

The 18th batch of the Youth Parliament Pakistan®, in partnership with TikTok, convened for its inaugural session in Islamabad, marking a pivotal moment in the digital engagement of Pakistan's youth. This session, held on December 02, 2023, featured around only primary members representing all constituencies of Pakistan, including Azad Jammu & Kashmir, Gilgit-Baltistan, and Overseas Pakistanis. The day's agenda included a series of activities aimed at fostering understanding & dialogue, including a panel discussion on 'Countering Online Hate Speech & Promoting a Culture of Peace & Tolerance', an orientation session, and a moderated parliamentary style debate. Notable segments also included an oath-taking ceremony, a briefing on 'How Parliament Works?' and concluding remarks by the YPP Secretariat/PILDAT.



#TikTokforPeace

18th Youth Parliament Pakistan®
Sangam Hall, Margala Hotel, Islamabad

Order of the Day

Saturday, December 02, 2023
09:30 am – 04:30 pm (PKT)

Log in to Zoom & In-person Registration	09:30 – 10:00 am
Welcome Remarks YPP Secretariat/PILDAT	10:00 – 10:15 am
Oath-taking ceremony Mr. Waiz Ahmad Former Deputy Speaker, National Assembly of Pakistan Former Minister	10:15 – 10:25 am
Orientation Mr. Anam Kausar YPP Secretariat/PILDAT	10:25 – 11:05 am
Panel Discussion Countering Online Hate Speech & Promoting a Culture of Peace & Tolerance Mr. Zara Basharat Higgs, Head of Public Policy Programs for South Asia and Pakistan, TikTok Mr. Khair Anis, ICI PI (Policy & Planning), ECP Saad Abdul Rehman Zafar, Deputy Director (Web), ECP Mr. Zubair Khan, Academics & Analyst Mr. Usama Khalil, Director Bots BH	11:15 am – 01:00 pm
Group Photo	01:00 – 01:15 pm
Launch & Networking	01:15 – 02:10 pm
How Parliament Works? Mr. Anam Kausar YPP Secretariat/PILDAT	02:15 – 02:45 pm
Moderated Parliamentary Style Debate	03:45 – 04:30 pm
<i>Motion: In the opinion of this honorable House, I fervently move to propose that the government undertake focused and concerted efforts to educate the general public, particularly the youth, on the crucial distinction between the exercise of freedom of speech and the propagation of hate speech.</i>	
Concluding Remarks YPP Secretariat/PILDAT	04:15 – 04:30 pm

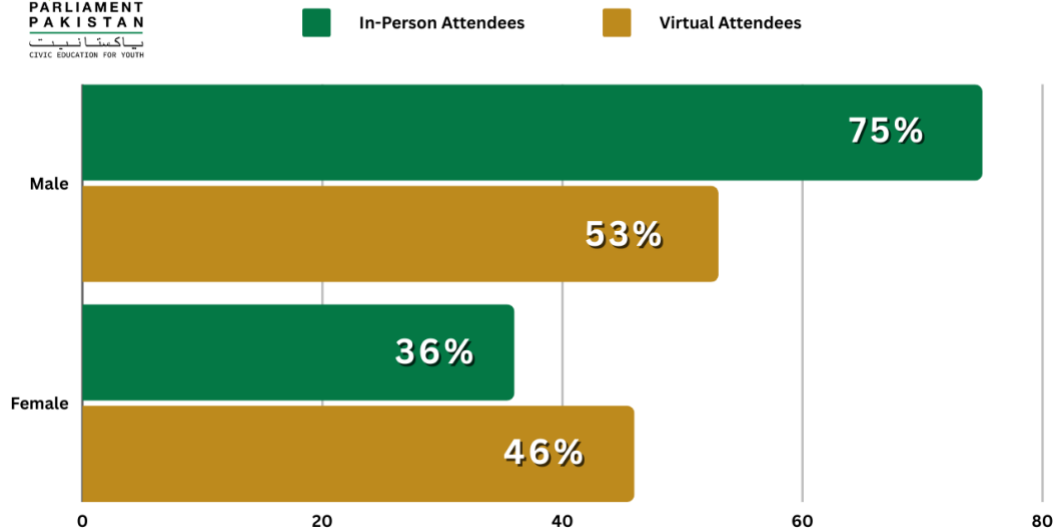


MYPs in Attendance:

The 18th Youth Parliament Pakistan® (YPP) held its first session with a total of **137** Members of Youth Parliament Pakistan® (MYPs), consisting of 75 virtual attendees and 62 in-person.

Out of the MYPs attending in person, 36% were female, while 75% were male. In the virtual setting, there was a slightly higher representation of females at 46%, with males comprising 53%. This diversity in gender representation demonstrated a commitment to inclusivity and equal participation.

Attendees	Male	Female
Virtual Attendees	53%	46%
In-person Attendees	75%	36%



Opening Ceremony/ Welcome Remarks:

President of PILDAT and Founder of Youth Parliament Pakistan® Mr. Ahmed Bilal Mehboob commenced the event with a virtual warm welcome. Acknowledging the partnership with TikTok, Mr. Mehboob extended gratitude, highlighting how this collaboration not only enriches the Youth Parliament Pakistan® experience but also serves as a vital link to connect with the youth through modern digital platforms. Emphasizing the significance of such alliances, he emphasized their role in empowering young leaders, enabling them to actively participate in crucial national and global discussions. Mr. Mehboob echoed the solemnity of MYPs' responsibilities. The objectives laid out for the session underscored the commitment to fostering a participatory dialogue, with a focus on innovation, inclusivity and the pursuit of actionable solutions for the betterment of our society.



Oath Taking Ceremony:

Mr. Wazir Jomezai, Former Deputy Speaker, National Assembly of Pakistan and Former Minister presided over the oath-taking ceremony, where all Members of the 18th Youth Parliament Pakistan® (MYPs) pledged to serve as youth parliamentarians for one year. This symbolic commitment highlighted their dedication to the principles of democratic governance and the betterment of their communities.



Mr. Wazir Ahmed Jomezai, former Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of Pakistan, presiding over the oath-taking ceremony at the first session of 18th Youth Parliament Pakistan®

Orientation Presentation:

Ms. Amna Kausar, Acting Speaker and Manager of Youth Parliament Pakistan®, provided a comprehensive orientation presentation to the members of Youth Parliament Pakistan® (MYPs). Throughout the presentation, Ms. Kausar discussed the overview of Youth Parliament Pakistan®, highlighting its objectives, and the reasons for joining YPP, and delved into its history, showcasing prominent alumni and speakers over the years. She also introduced our partners for the 18th YPP, details about the upcoming sessions, and their respective topics. Additionally, Ms. Kausar talked about various legislative instruments and explained the evaluation process to the MYPs, emphasizing the importance of adhering to the code of conduct.



Ms. Amna Kausar, Manager/Coordinator, leading the Orientation Session during the inaugural session of the 18th Youth Parliament Pakistan®

Panel Discussion on Online Hate Speech & Youth Engagement:

Moderated by Ms. Amna Kausar, Manager of Youth Parliament Pakistan® (YPP), the panel discussion titled ‘Countering Online Hate Speech & Promoting a Culture of Peace & Tolerance’ featured a distinguished panel of experts. The session brought together Ms. Zara Basharat Higgs, Head of Public Policy for South Asia and Pakistan at TikTok; Mr. Khizer Aziz, Director General of IT (Policy & Planning) at the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP); Syed Abdul Rehman Zafar, Deputy Director (Web) at the ECP; Mr. Zaigham Khan, an analyst; and Mr. Usama Khilji, Director of Bolo Bhi. This diverse group of panelists shared their expertise on strategies to fight online hate speech and foster an environment of peace and tolerance.

The discussion explored a range of topics, including the role of social media platforms in content moderation, the significance of digital literacy in fostering respectful online interactions and the impact of legislative measures on curtailing hate speech without infringing on freedom of expression. Ms. Higgs talked about TikTok’s proactive measures to eliminate harmful content and promote a respectful online community. Mr. Aziz and Mr. Zafar shared insights into how the ECP is using technology to create a respectful online political discourse. Mr. Khan emphasized the importance of education in creating awareness about the consequences of hate speech, and Mr. Khilji discussed the balance between legal restrictions and the protection of free speech.

The session was notably interactive, with Members of the Youth Parliament Pakistan® (MYPs) actively participating in the Q&A segment. They posed thoughtful questions, reflecting on how the insights shared could be applied to their communities to create a more tolerant and peaceful online space. This exchange not only enriched the discussion but also highlighted the enthusiasm and commitment of the youth to be part of the solution in combating online hate speech.

The panel successfully highlighted the collaborative effort required from all sectors of society, including policymakers, educators, social media platforms and the youth, to tackle the challenge of online hate speech and promote a culture of peace and tolerance. The insightful contributions from the panelists and the engaging participation of the MYPs underscored the importance of dialogue and action in shaping a positive online environment.



Engaging in an Interactive Panel Discussion on Countering Online Hate Speech:
Addressing Questions Raised by MYPs

Group Photo and Lunch

The session continued with a group photo capturing the diverse assembly of young minds committed to civic engagement. A networking lunch provided an informal setting for members to exchange ideas and build connections.



Group photo of members of 18th Youth Parliament Pakistan® at the first session

How Parliament Works?

The presentation by Ms. Amna Kausar, titled *‘How Parliament Works,’* covered various aspects. It provided insights into democratic processes, roles of parliamentary representatives, comparisons with other governance forms, legislative functions, oversight, electoral processes, and the importance of free and fair elections. The explanation of the separation of powers emphasized its role in maintaining checks and balances within a democratic system. The overall goal was to equip young parliamentarians with knowledge for active and effective participation in parliamentary discussions, contributing to informed and responsible civic education.

Moderated Parliamentary Style Debate



MYP moving the motion at the first session of the 18th Youth Parliament Pakistan® on the crucial distinction between the exercise of freedom of speech and the propagation of hate speech

During the 18th Youth Parliament Pakistan®, the debate centered around a motion proposed by Ms. Fatima Mirza. The motion, titled *“In the opinion of this honorable House, I hereby move to propose that the government undertake focused and concerted efforts to educate the general public, particularly the youth, on the crucial distinction between the exercise of freedom of speech and the propagation of hate speech,”* emphasized the need for the government to educate the public, especially young people, on the difference between exercising freedom of speech and spreading hate speech.



MYPs debating on the motion, Crucial distinction between exercise of freedom of speech and propagation of hate speech at the first session of the 18th Youth Parliament Pakistan®

Throughout the discussion, members passionately argued both for and against the motion, with a focus on the increasing prevalence of hate speech in Pakistan. Many highlighted how hate speech often hides behind Islamophobia, leading to communal tensions and social division. Questions were raised about how hate speech spreads and its impact on



society. The debate did not just identify the problem; it also discussed solutions. Members discussed the role of government and institutions in combating hate speech and promoting tolerance and respect for diverse opinions. They also questioned the effectiveness of current laws and educational programs aimed at fostering critical thinking and media literacy. The debate, which included both virtual and in-person participation, provided a platform for diverse perspectives and innovative ideas. Ultimately, The motion passed by the majority '**Ayes**' of the house, in the first session, reflecting the commitment of young parliamentarians to addressing societal issues within the democratic framework.



Charting the Path Forward: Conclusions of the 18th Youth Parliament Pakistan® Session on Countering Online Hate Speech

Conclusion of the Session

Following the comprehensive discussions and insights shared during the first session of the 18th Youth Parliament Pakistan®, several action points and recommendations have been identified to further our collective efforts in countering online hate speech and promoting a culture of peace and tolerance. These are aimed at leveraging the enthusiasm and commitment of the youth, as well as the expertise of various sectors of society including policymakers, educators and social media platforms.

- **Enhance Digital Literacy:** Develop and implement comprehensive digital literacy programs across educational institutions to equip the youth with the skills to navigate online spaces responsibly. This includes identifying hate speech, understanding the consequences of online actions and promoting positive engagement.
- **Strengthen Content Moderation:** Encourage social media platforms to continue and enhance their content moderation efforts. This includes refining algorithms to better identify and remove hate speech, providing clearer guidelines for users and promoting transparency in moderation processes.
- **Legislative Reforms:** Advocate for legislative reforms that provide clear definitions and guidelines on hate speech, ensuring that measures to curb hate speech do not infringe on freedom of expression. This includes working with legal experts, civil society and the tech industry to strike a balance between regulation and rights.
- **Public Awareness Campaigns:** Launch public awareness campaigns highlighting the impact of hate speech and the importance of tolerance and respectful discourse. These campaigns should target diverse audiences across different media platforms to maximize reach and impact.
- **Youth Engagement in Policy-making:** Create forums and platforms where young people can actively participate in policy-making processes related to digital governance and hate speech regulation. Their insights and perspectives can provide valuable inputs to create effective and youth-friendly policies.
- **Collaborative Efforts:** Foster collaboration between the government, private sector, civil society and international organizations to create a unified strategy against online hate speech. This includes sharing best practices, resources, and innovative solutions to address the issue at a global level.
- **Educational Reforms:** Integrate education on peace, tolerance and the responsible use of social media into the national curriculum. Encourage educational institutions to host workshops, seminars and debates on these topics to foster a culture of peace and understanding from a young age.

The session concluded with gratitude expressed by the YPP Secretariat for the active engagement of the MYPs, summarizing the day's activities. This first session of the 18th Youth Parliament Pakistan® served as a successful platform for young leaders to voice their opinions, engage in constructive dialogue and contribute to fostering a tolerant and peaceful society from across Pakistan. The diversity of discussions and activities highlighted the significance of youth involvement in shaping Pakistan's future. In addition to providing a platform for constructive dialogue and meaningful participation, the session of the 18th Youth Parliament Pakistan® showcased the power of collaboration and partnership in driving positive change. The session's collaboration with TikTok and the involvement of esteemed panelists underscored the importance of leveraging diverse resources and expertise to address pressing societal issues effectively.

Appendix A: Attendance of MYPs

The following list of Members was present at the first session of the 18th Youth Parliament Pakistan®, held on December 2, 2023, Saturday.

Virtual participants

Sr.	Names of MYPs	Constituency Number
1	YP-133 Qurban Ali	NA-209 Khairpur-II
2	YP 136 Tayyab Sultan	NA-115 Jhang-II
3	YP-164 Muhammad Siddique Madani	NA-263 Killa Abdullah
4	YP 098 Anila Nazar	NA-123 Lahore-I
5	YP-132 Shah Hussain	NA-49-Tribal Area-X
6	YP-021 Ram Parkash	NA-220 Umerkot
7	YP-122 Zunaira Zafar	NA-162 Vehari-I
8	YP-064 Nimra Kashif	NA-130 Lahore-VIII
9	YP-176 Muhammad Asim	NA-28 Peshawar-II
10	YP 044 Shahzadi	NA-151 Khanewal-II
11	YP 121 Ahmad Raza Khan Kirmani	NA-121 Sheikhpura-III
12	YP-200 Anas Sheikh	NA-255 Karachi Central-III
13	YP-072 Asmat Ullah Dummer	NA-258 Loralai-cum-Musa Khail-cum-Ziarat-cum-Dukki-cum-Harnai
14	YP-113 Rai Haider Ali	NA-141-Okara-I
15	YP 138 Imran Mughal	NA-249 Karachi West-II
16	YP-196 Muhammad Mursaleen Mairaj	NA-79 Gujranwala-I
17	YP 203 Umair Nasir	NA-70-Gujrat-III
18	YP-033 Muneeba Tayyab	NA-36 Lakki Marwat
19	YP-195 Unsia Batool	NA-59 Rawalpindi-III
20	YP-205 Agha Nouman Khan	
21	YP-084 Komal Javed	NA-75 Sialkot-IV
22	YP-151-Aaesha siddiqa	NA-147-Sahiwal-I
23	YPP-069 Umar Farooq	NA-47 Tribal Area-VIII
24	YP-081 Sarfraz Ali	NA-228 Tando Muhammad Khan
25	YP-129 Syed Ali Naqi Naqvi	NA-135 Lahore-XIII
26	YP-112 Shanza Hameed	NA-72 Sialkot-I
27	YP-003 Ayesha Shaikh	NA-207-Sukkur-II
28	YP-060 Rimsha Shahid	NA-253 Karachi Central-I
29	YP-113 Rai Ali Kharal	
30	YP-127 Syeda Sakina Hassan Zaidi	NA-96 Mianwali-II
31	YP-073 Muhammad Ahmad Irfan	NA-136 Lahore - XIV
32	YP-138 Imran Mughal	NA-249 Karachi West-II
33	YP 146 Maliha Fayyaz	NA-55 Attock-I
34	YP-057 Noman Amjad	NA-101-Faisalabad-I

35	YP-161 Muhammad suliman Saif	NA-259 Dera Bugti-cum-Kohlu-cum-Barkhan-cum-sibi-cum-Lehri
36	YP-75 Junaid Iqbal	NA-181 Muzaffargarh-I
37	YP-160 Ubed Nazir	
38	YP-122 Zunaira Zafar	NA-162 Vehari-I
39	YP-132 Shah Hussain	NA-49-Tribal Area-X
40	YP013 Faiza Siddiq	NA-80 Gujranwala-II
41	YP-019 Zainab Tariq Ali	NA-108-Faisalabad-VIII
42	YP-181 Fatima Mehr	NA-100 Chiniot-II
43	YP-023 Bakhtawar Mushtaq	NA-105-Faisalabad-V
44	YP-036 Ali Hamza	NA-164 Vehari-III
45	YP-107 Dua Sohail Khero	NA-226 Hyderabad-II
46	YPP-055 Taif Ullah	NA-44 Tribal Area-V
47	YP-232 Maheen Zakaria	NA-232 Thatta
48	YP-141 Hafza Khan	NA-56 Attock-II
49	YP-054 Abdullah Akram	NA-78 Narowal-II
50	YP-90 Muhammad Khalid	NA-122 Sheikhpura-IV
52	YPP-022 Rakhshanda Ramzan	NA-256 Karachi Central-IV
53	YP-193 Ahsan Ali	NA-216 Sanghar-II
54	YP-051 Ubedullah Rahimoon	NA-221 Tharparkar-I
55	YP-196 Muhammad Mursaleen Mairaj	NA-79 Gujranwala-I
56	YP-007 Rimmsh Fatima	NA-117 Nankana Sahib-I
58	YP-078 Tehreem fatima	NA-119 Sheikhpura-I
59	YP-176 Muhammad Asim	NA-28 Peshawar-II
60	YP-182 shazma ijaz	NA-84 Gujranwala-VI
61	YP-232 Maheen Zakaria	NA-232 Thatta
62	YP-197 Saadia Babar	NA-129 Lahore-VII
63	YP-171 Rai Ahmad Raza Tahir	NA-99 Chiniot-I
64	YP-205 Ayesha Arshad	NA-54 Islamabad-III
65	YP-185 Abid kakar	NA-262 Pishin
66	YP-165 Muhammad Abdullah	NA-191 Dera Ghazi Khan-III
67	YP-150 Ameera Khurshid	NA-73-Sialkot-II
68	YP-202 Haris Khan	NA-29 Peshawar-III
69	YP-194 Muhammad Ali	NA-243 Karachi East-II
70	YP-093 Maryam Tahir	NA-127 Lahore-V
71	YP-200 Anas Sheikh	NA-255 Karachi Central-III
72	YP-198 Fatima Sumaiya Ahmed	NA-197-Kashmore
73	YP-127 Syeda Sakina Hassan Zaidi	NA-96 Mianwali-II
74	YP-193 Ahsan Ali	NA-216 Sanghar-II

Appendix B

18th YPP

First Session

Youth Parliament Pakistan® Secretariat

The following list of Members was present at the first session of 18th Youth Parliament Pakistan®, held on December 2, 2023, Saturday.

In-Person participants

Sr.	Names of MYPs	Constituency Number
1	Muhammad Asadullah Almas	NA-69 Gujrat-II
2	Hassan Adbullah	NA-85 MandiBahauddin-I
3	Usman Aslam	NA-120 Sheikhpura-II
4	Mohid Jamil	NA-145 Pakpattan-I
5	Rana Zain Ali	NA-149 Sahiwal-III
6	Shoaib Aslam	NA-184 Muzaffargarh-IV
7	Muhammad Hamza Riaz	NA-116 Faisalabad-IV
8	Nathan Danyal	NA-116 Jhang-II
9	Malik Sher Raza Kalrou	NA-154 Multan-I
10	Shah Zain	NA-158 Multan - V
11	Nouman Sajjad	NA-161 Lodhran-II
12	Muhammad Samama Saleem	NA-188 Layyah-II
13	Iqra Khalid	NA-60 Rawalpindi
14	Qasim Sarfaraz	NA-64 Chakwal
15	Esha Naeem	NA-66 Jhelum
16	Aqeel Younas	NA-87 Hafizabad-I
17	Sana Shakeel	NA-90 Sargodha- III
18	Saareena Asrar	NA-131 Lahore-IX
19	Fatima Mirza	NA-130 Lahore-IX
20	Waqar Ul Hassan	NA-153 Khanewal-IV
21	Falak Naz	NA-109 Faisalabad-IX
22	Summiyo Bano	NA-62 Rawalpindi-VI
23	Josna Ajmal	NA-125 Lahore-III
24	Fahad Bin Tariq	NA-67 Jhelum-II
25	Hassan Raza	NA-172 Bahawalpur-III
26	Ahmed Hassan	NA-179 Rahimyarkhan-V
27	Muhammad Adeel Abbas	NA-183 Mazaffargarh-III
28	Anas Iftikhar	NA-155 Multan-II
29	Shafiqat Rasool	NA-212 Naushahro Feroze-II
30	Ayesha Shaikh	NA-207 Sukkur-II
31	Karim Khan Rezy	NA-245 Karachi East-IV
32	Parkash Kumar	NA-227 Hyderabad-III
33	Shahzad Ali	NA-208 Khairpur-I

34	Zahra Khan	NA-14 Mansehra-Cum Torghar
35	Waseem Abbas	NA-46 Tribal Area-VII
36	Hussain uz Zaman	NA-51 Area-XII
37	Madeeha Altaf	NA-18 Swabi
38	Majid Ali	NA-42 Tribal Area-III
39	Munir Usmani	NA-12 Battagram
40	Uzair Bin Farid	NA-13 Mansehra-I
41	Sumbal Zeb Khan	NA-3 Swat-II
42	Maryana Khan	NA-19 Swabi-II
43	Alban Daud	NA-31 Peshawar-V
44	Aimann Khan	NA-2 Swat-I
45	Sameer Siddiq	NA-43 Tribal Area-IV
46	Hasnain Khan	NA-20 Mardan-I
47	Muhammad Ahsan	NA-30 Peshawar-IV
48	Afrasiyab Khan	NA-5 Upper Dir
49	Adbur Rehman Shah	NA-35 Bannu
50	Mahnoor Jamal	NA-32 Kohat
51	Abbas Ali	NA-22 Mardan-III
52	Muhammad Saqib	NA-6 Lower Dir-I
53	Naveed Ayaz	NA-8 Malakand Protected Area
54	Adnan Shawkat	NA-9 Buner
55	Muhammad Aslam	NA-45 Tribal Area VI
56	Ihsan Ullah	NA-34 Karak
57	Muhammad Awais Khan	NA-21 Mardan -II
58	Muhammad Azharuddin	NA-10 Shangla
59	Naseer Ahmad	NA-5 Upper Dir
60	Naz Dana	NA-266 Quetta-III
61	Umee-e-Maliha	NA-265 Quetta-II
62	Muhammad Nasir	NA-261 Jafarabad-cum-sohbatpur