

Coalition on Right to Information (CRTI)

CRTI Charter of Action

The Coalition on Right to Information (CRTI), on behalf of the citizens of Pakistan, who are guaranteed Article 19 (Freedom of Expression) and Article 19A (Right to Information) under the Constitution, strongly urges the provincial and federal governments, media and the political parties the following:

1. That Freedom of Information Ordinance 2002 be repealed and a new Right to Information law based on best practices be enacted.
2. That the Balochistan Freedom of Information Act 2005 and Sindh Freedom of Information Act 2006 be repealed and new right to information laws be enacted incorporating citizens' rights and best practices.
3. That Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa enact right to information laws.
4. That these right to information laws to be enacted at federal and provincial levels establish independent and autonomous Information Commissions to ensure proactive disclosure of information by public bodies and authorities as well as provision of information to citizens when they demand it under the information laws in cost effective and easy manner.
5. That the federal and provincial right to information laws only be enacted after inputs by the Coalition on Right to Information (CRTI), media and other stakeholders through open consultations.
6. That all political parties registered with the Election Commission of Pakistan declare citizens' right to information as a fundamental right in their manifestos and also clearly spell out methodologies to protect and promote this right.
7. That both print and electronic media proactively mobilize public opinion in favor of citizens' right to information and pressure the federal and provincial governments to enact right to information laws urgently aimed at improving the media's access to certified information available with the public bodies and authorities.
8. That provincial and federal government departments unhesitatingly and swiftly provide information to citizens when requested under the existing information laws.
9. That provincial and federal public departments ensure proactive disclosure of information pertaining to their complaints mechanisms, procedures, guidelines, policies, monthly expenditures and their performance through web sites and by displaying such information at prominent places within the premises of public departments.

10. That all RTI laws in Pakistan should make it mandatory on all public bodies to establish websites that are updated at least monthly with all public sphere information such as policies, budgets and activities and a dedicated information officer.
12. That the federal and provincial governments and all their ministries, departments, offices and authorities make special and urgent arrangements to address the special information access needs of millions of persons in Pakistan with disabilities (PWDs); and that these needs and guarantees be made part of all RTI laws in the country.
13. That the federal, provincial and district governments make it mandatory upon all their ministries / departments / offices to incorporate web accessibility standards so that these websites are accessible to blind/visually impaired Pakistanis and others.

What is CRTI

The Coalition on Right to Information (CRTI) was established on December 17, 2012 in Islamabad by a group of civil society organizations with the goal to promote an open information and communications policies at the federal, provincial and district levels.

CRTI Objectives

The CRTI seeks to promote an open information and communications policies at the federal, provincial and district levels across Pakistan aimed at:

- (i) Promoting an informed citizenry;
- (ii) Improved dialogue between the citizens and state;
- (iii) Promoting transparency and accountability; and
- (iv) Strengthening of an informed, pluralist, tolerant and development-centered democracy.

The CRTI is working towards the enactment in Pakistan of right to information laws according to international best practices of right to information legislation and implementation of existing information laws.

CRTI is also focused on advocating and facilitating enabling mechanisms, processes, practices, tools and techniques to ensure the implementation of a user-friendly right to information regime across the country.

United we struggle for Right to Information

