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**The Chair of the Bar**

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Mr. Hassan Raza Pasha  
Chairman, Executive Committee  
Pakistan Bar Council  
Supreme Court Building  
Constitution Avenue, G-5/2  
Islamabad  
Pakistan

Sent by email: [info@pakistanbarcouncil.org](mailto:info@pakistanbarcouncil.org)  
[pakbarcouncil@yahoo.com](mailto:pakbarcouncil@yahoo.com)

25 May 2023

Dear Mr. Pasha,

The Bar Council of England and Wales ('BCEW') is concerned by recent announcements made by the District Bar Association of Gujranwala and the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Bar Council in relation to Ahmadi Muslim lawyers.

District Bar Association of Gujranwala and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Bar Council

We note the announcement made on 7 March 2023, by the District Bar Association of Gujranwala, in respect of a new requirement for any individual seeking admittance to the Bar of Pakistan, in Gujranwala. We reference a copy below.

We understand that the notice requires any applicant to positively assert that they are Muslim and to denounce the teachings of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community and specifically its founder, Mirza Ghulam Ahmad. This notice was issued following a resolution being passed in the General House on 23 February 2023.

A substantially similar notice was issued by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Bar Council on 3 May 2023. Again, we reference a copy below.

The intent of these notices would appear to be as follows. They single out a specific part of the population by forcing Ahmadi Muslims to denounce their founder. This will stop

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**THE BAR COUNCIL**

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[www.barcouncil.org.uk](http://www.barcouncil.org.uk)

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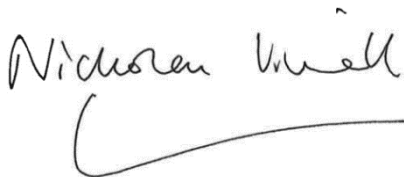
Ahmadi Muslims from being called to the relevant Bar Council and Association and may also prevent an applicant from any religious or non-religious background other than Islam from being able to do the same. This may also restrict the rights of those already called to the Bar.

The Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan rightly enshrines the principles of religious freedom and equality before the law, irrespective of background. The new requirements in Gujranwala and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are expressly discriminatory and violate these constitutional principles. Such requirements would also undermine basic principles including those set out in the [UN Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers](#).

The Bar Council of England and Wales is concerned about the impact of this requirement on the Pakistani Bar as well as the wider justice system. If the barristers' profession is not open to all, irrespective of religion and background, it suggests that the justice system as a whole is discriminatory. All appropriately qualified individuals seeking to be called to the Bar should be able to do so without discrimination on religious grounds.

The Bar Council of England and Wales asks the Pakistan Bar Council to duly consider the two notices and take the necessary action required to remedy the constitutional and discriminatory issues that arise.

Yours sincerely,


A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nick Vineall". The signature is written in a cursive style and is followed by a long, horizontal flourish line.

**Nick Vineall KC**  
**Chair of the Bar**

CC Punjab Bar Council via [mit@pbbarcouncil.com](mailto:mit@pbbarcouncil.com)  
Sindh Bar Council via [admin@sindhbarcouncil.org](mailto:admin@sindhbarcouncil.org)  
KP Bar Council via [support@kpbarcouncil.com](mailto:support@kpbarcouncil.com)  
Supreme Court of Pakistan via [mail@supremecourt.gov.pk](mailto:mail@supremecourt.gov.pk)  
The Supreme Court Bar Association, Pakistan via [info@scbap.com](mailto:info@scbap.com)  
High Court Bar Association, Pakistan via [judges.library@lhc.gov.pk](mailto:judges.library@lhc.gov.pk)

Encs. Enclosure 1: Scan of Khatm e Nabuwat Pamphlet with English translation  
Enclosure 2: Scan of the "Finality of Prophethood" Circular of The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Bar Council with English translation


**Enclosure 1:** Scan of Khatm e Nabuwat Pamphlet with English translation provided by the International Human Rights Committee, reference: IHRC/PR/150323/3 15 March 2023

	<p>Ref No: 33/2023      Date: 07-3-2023</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Long Live Tajdar Khatm e Nabuwat</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Notice Announcement</b></p> <p>All honourable members of the bar are informed that following affidavit has been included in the membership form in accordance with the resolution passed in the meeting of General House on 23rd February 2023. From now onwards, membership of the District Bar Association will be handed over in accordance with the affidavit related to Tajdar e Khatm e Nabuwat (PBUH).</p> <p>I am Muslim and have unconditional belief in Khatm e Nabuwat and finality of Prophethood of Holy Prophet (P B U H). I do not accept anyone who claims to be a Prophet after the Holy Prophet (P B U H) by amending the known definition of the word, Prophet. I do not accept such claimant of Prophecy as Prophet or Religious Preacher. I do not consider such person Muslim. I consider Mirza Ghulam Ahmed Qadiani, liar (God forbid) and his Lahori and Qadiani followers, non-Muslims.</p> <p>Secretary Bar Hafiz Wazir Ali Malik Advocate</p>
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*Scan of Khatm e Nabuwat Pamphlet, District Bar Council Gujranwala, Punjab, Pakistan has issued a notice dated 07 March 2023 that with immediate effect*

*English translation of the Khatm e Nabuwat Pamphlet*

**Enclosure 2:** Scan of the “Finality of Prophethood” Circular of The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Bar Council with English translation provided by the International Human Rights Committee, reference: IHRC/PR/060523/2 06 May 2023

	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>&lt; LETTER HEAD &gt;</b></p> <p>Ref No: 175 KP/BC                      Dated: 03-05-2023</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>CIRCULAR</b></p> <p>The meeting of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Bar Council Executive Committee was held today, May 3rd, 2023, under the chairmanship of respected Syed Mobasher Shah Advocate, Chairman Executive Committee. In the meeting, it was decided that from now on, all new lawyers who will join the Bar Council will submit the attached declaration form along with their Intimation Form with regard to the Finality of Prophethood.</p> <p>Declaration Form:</p> <p>"I, hereby solemnly declare and affirm that I believe in the complete, final, and unqualified Finality of Prophethood of the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him, and that I do not believe in or recognize anyone else as a prophet or religious reformer after him, nor do I claim or support anyone who claims to be a prophet in any sense of the word or with any interpretation, and that I do not have any affiliation with either the Qadiani or Lahori groups (who associate themselves with the name of Ahmadis or any other name)."</p> <p>Secretary Khyber Pakhtankhua Bar Council</p>
<p><i>Scan of the “Finality of Prophethood” Circular of The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Bar Council, Pakistan has issued a notice dated 03 May 2023 that with immediate effect</i></p>	<p><i>English translation of the of the “Finality of Prophethood” Circular</i></p>