

PROPOSED

## **“NATIONAL POLICY FOR PEACE AND HARMONY”**

*Prepared and Presented by*

*Centre for Pakistan and Gulf studies*

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**“Resolving Radical Extremism in Pakistan”**

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### **Title**

**“National Policy for Peace and Harmony”**

### **Preamble**

*The national policy shall be based on;*

- *The Islamic fundamental principles of Human dignity, equality and justice.*
- *The set of agreed values and principles mentioned in the existing constitution of 1973.*

### **Guiding Principles**

*The national policy shall be formulated keeping in view the following guiding principles:-*

- **Recognising** the principles of freedom, equality, tolerance and social justice, **as enunciated by Islam**; *Wherein adequate provisions should be made for all the communities to profess and practice their believes,*
- **Ensuring universal human rights**, social, economic and political justice ,
- **Emphasising** the need for **peaceful settlement** of all intra societal disputes and provision of adequate platforms to encourage dialogue between all segments of society representing different views,
- **Understanding** the need for **integration in international system** for peace and harmony on the basis of universal human values, norms, principles and traditions.

### **Purpose**

*To reinforce social cohesion, peace and harmony in support of national security imperative of Pakistan by addressing extremism, radicalism and to prevent the promotion of violence and intolerance in order to implement proposed action plan in a co-ordinated and co-*

*operative manner keeping in view local social, religious, political and economic realities of Pakistani society.*

### **Objectives**

*The national policy shall aim at achieving the following objectives:-*

- ***Define and promote*** Pakistani national identity, values and symbols.
- ***Deny*** ideological support to the extremist groups and produce a unified national narrative.
- ***Advise*** institutional reforms in the field of intelligence, law and enforcement, necessary to ensure speedy dispensation of justice.
- ***Reduce*** recruitment space to the extremists through education, skill development, employment opportunities and related initiatives.
- ***Promote and build*** closer collaboration, liaison, information-sharing and trust between state and society, encouraging increased participation in national affairs by all segments of the society.

### **Strategy**

*The policy revolves around four pronged strategy focusing on the following aspects;*

- **Political and Ideological** – Develop national consensus on agreed set of values for a unified national identity and provide counter narratives to safeguard the vulnerable segments of society and force change of radical mind to revert back to mainstream.
- **Intelligence and Law Enforcement**- Increase operational capacity and transparency within law enforcing agencies (especially between Intelligence agencies and Police), with focus on increased cooperation and coordination. Suggest improvements in existing laws and the legal framework and increase general awareness to establish the tradition of rule of law and facilitate effective enforcement.
- **Education and Socioeconomics**- Improve education system leading to better socioeconomic conditions through effective human resource development with focus on professional skills, employment opportunities and self-empowerment.

- **Public Opinion and Media.** National perception management through coordinated and shared understanding between government and the private sector aimed at preserving national identity and interest.

### **Implementation**

The national policy may be implemented in five steps in line with the objectives and the strategy mentioned above;

#### **Step 1 - National Commission for Peace and Harmony.**

Establishment of an independent commission at federal level to prepare, publish and submit report to the Federal Cabinet while working on the core issues in four groups:-

- **Group 1-** Political / Ideological
  - **Composition.** Broad based membership including all segments of society including academic experts, religious scholars ,political leaders, retired government officials of good repute, community /tribal elders, print and electronic media persons
  - **Tasks**
    - Explore shared values and principles for a unified national identity
    - Identify issues and initiate dialogue between the society beginning with universities in small groups of intellectuals and academics involving teachers and students simultaneously in all parts of the country. Initiating debate between moderates which can later be expanded to include more conservative elements.
    - Recording and publication of dialogue proceedings using print and electronic media.
    - Formulate Policy recommendations to achieve the desired national harmony and promote the existing national symbols.
    - Any other task considered necessary for the achievement of overall objectives of the policy.

- **Group 2-Intelligence and Law Enforcement**
  - **Composition.** *Expert level membership including qualified and relevant persons including legal, judicial and sharia experts, community /tribal elders, retired government officials from Police and intelligence agencies of good repute.*
  - **Tasks**
    - *Review the existing national Intelligence system to increase operational capacity and transparency with focus on increased cooperation and coordination.*
    - *Review legal framework of the country to improve acceptability and implementation.*
    - *Review the entire judicial process (reporting ,investigation, litigation, prosecution and execution)for fair trial and prevention of crime.*
    - *Review the existing system of prisons/jails and make recommendations to evolve them as reform centres.*
    - *Highlight weaknesses in the system and recommend improvements*
    - *Suggest mechanism to ensure speedy justice by involving civil society and promote culture of tolerance and rule of law.*
    - *Any other task considered necessary for the achievement of the overall objective of the policy.*
- **Group 3- Education and Socioeconomics**
  - **Composition.** *Expert level membership including qualified and relevant persons including education experts, both government and private sector, professionals from practical field( skill based professions),representatives from Madaris, community /tribal elders, retired teachers from universities, schools (educational and vocational institutions).*
  - **Tasks**
    - *Review the education system of the country, both government and private sector.*
    - *Identify the Human resource of the country and suggest its development strategy in order to increase employment opportunities and empowerment.*
    - *Highlight weaknesses in the system and recommend improvements.*
    - *Any other task considered necessary for the overall objective of the policy.*

- **Group 4- Public Opinion and Media Policy**
  - **Composition.** Expert level membership including qualified and relevant individuals including media experts, both government and private sector, representatives of Ministry of information( federal and provincial) , religious scholars PEMRA representatives, members from National censor board, Film / drama producers, Writers , poets and other experts from print and electronic media.
  - **Tasks**
    - Determine the role of media and public opinion in de-radicalisation and counter terrorism efforts.
    - Review the existing print and electronic media policy.
    - Identify major weaknesses and suggest necessary improvements.
    - Any other task considered necessary for the overall objective of the policy.

### **Step 2 - Institutional / Legal Reforms**

*In light of the report of the national commission the government shall;*

- *Produce National narrative based on agreed values and principles around shared history, culture, sovereignty of the state , peaceful coexistence and rule of law.*
- *Initiate reforms to improve efficiency and effectiveness of intelligence and law enforcing agencies with emphasis on improvement of implementation mechanism, information sharing, effective surveillance and intelligence gathering (internal and external) .*
- *Initiate legal and judicial reforms to improve existing judicial system for fair and speedy justice and incorporate mechanism for prevention of crime.*
- *Initiate jail reforms, renaming and practically making them centres for personal correction.*

### **Step 3- Institution of Mosque and Madaris**

*In light of the report of the national commission the government shall*

- *Reinstate the most important institution of Mosque and Madrisa and take state ownership of religion and all religious institutions.*

- *Nominate board of Ulemas representing all religious schools of thought to ensure;*
- *Standardisation of appropriate selection criteria for Imams and Khateebis and their nominations in respective Mosques as per the laid down criteria.*
- *Restore the original sanctity of the Dars-i-Nizami to pre 1979 status.*
- *Suggest improvements in the syllabus and mode of teaching in respective Madaris.*
- *Agree on some basic principles for the regulation of sermons delivered in the mosques and other congregations.*
- *Organise dialogue and discussion between established schools of Islamic thought to increase understanding and build mutual trust and confidence.*
- *Increase coordination between all the government and private institutions/departments/organisations /communities working in the religious field.*
- *Involve local communities in developing lasting and acceptable solutions.*

#### **Step 4- Education and Skill Development**

*In light of the report of the national commission the government shall;*

- *Initiate education reforms, in both government and private sector, to achieve uniformity and national cohesion.*
- *Initiate skill development programmes in all parts of the country to build a skilled workforce to be utilised locally and abroad.*
- *Link job seekers with potential employers to maximise employment opportunities.*
- *Encourage industry and multinational corporations working in Pakistan to provide career development opportunities for potential employees in all remote areas.*
- *Assist local communities in developing local solutions, increasing self-employment.*

#### **Step 5 Media Reforms**

*In light of the report of the national commission the government shall;*

- *Formulate a comprehensive national media policy for a cohesive and coordinated societal perception management promoting the cause of true Pakistani values, identity and interest.*

- *Initiate efforts to counter the existing radical narrative and produce state's national narrative and its effective propagation using all available means of communication traditional and non-traditional.*
- *Control and ban the spread of all hate material in all its forms.*
- *Review and improve already existing PEMRA rules/regulations and their implementation mechanism.*

### **Conclusion**

*The National Policy for Peace and Harmony is aimed at resolving the existing radical extremism in Pakistan using peaceful means, integrating and coordinating national efforts on the basis of agreed principles achieved through consensus. This task is enormous and cannot be undertaken alone by any government, political party or group. There is an urgent need to start the process at the earliest. This policy lays down broad parameters and guidelines for a proposed plan of action which, if implemented, may begin a shift towards the right direction.*