

Political Intolerance In Pakistan As A Democratic State: Reasons And Ways Out

Dr. Sajida Begum¹, Muhammad Bilal², Dr. Anam Iftikhar³,
Dr. Shumaila Firdos⁴, Dr. Syed Ali Raza⁵

¹Assistant Professor, School of Political Science, Minhaj University, Lahore, sajidabegum.polsc@mul.edu.pk

²Lecturer (Political Science) Govt. Associate College, Chak Jhumra, Faisalabad. mb75744@gmail.com

³Assistant Professor, Dept. of History, Arts and Cultural Heritage, Division of Arts and Social Sciences, University of Education, Lahore. Lahore.anam.iftikhar@ue.edu.pk

⁴Assistant Professor, Dept. of History, Arts and Cultural Heritage, Division of Arts and Social Sciences, University of Education, Lahore.

Shumaila.firdos@ue.edu.pk

⁵Assistant Professor (Visiting), Department of Archaeology, University of the Punjab, Lahore. alishahphd@gmail.com

Abstract

Political intolerance has become a major issue in Pakistan due to the polarizing nature of politics in the country and the tendency of political parties and their supporters to resort to violence and intimidation as a means of achieving political objectives. The issue of political intolerance in Pakistan, focuses on the role of different stakeholders in perpetuating this problem. It includes the negative impact of hate speech and inflammatory rhetoric promoted by some political parties, and the need for greater accountability for these actions. There are several ways to overcome political intolerance in Pakistan, including strengthening democratic institutions, promoting diversity, and encouraging constructive dialogue among different political parties. Ultimately, it is argued that a more tolerant and inclusive political environment is necessary for Pakistan's democracy to thrive. It concludes by emphasizing the importance of a multi-pronged approach, including education and media literacy programs, in addressing the issue of political intolerance in Pakistan.

Key Words: Politics, Confrontation, Intolerance, Parties, Leadership, Political Intolerance, Pakistan, Democratic State.

Introduction

In Pakistan, political intolerance has been a major issue in the post-2010 era. This can be attributed to the polarizing nature of politics in the country, where political parties and their supporters are often divided along ethnic, religious, and ideological lines. The result has been a lack of willingness to engage in political dialogue and a tendency to resort to violence and intimidation as a means of achieving political objectives. The role of political parties in perpetuating political intolerance has also been significant. Many political parties in Pakistan have been accused of using inflammatory rhetoric and promoting hate speech, which has contributed to a toxic political environment. Furthermore, some political parties have been implicated in politically motivated violence, either through direct involvement or by supporting armed groups. (Akhtar, 2009)

In recent years, there have been efforts to promote political tolerance and reduce political violence in Pakistan. For example, civil society organizations have launched campaigns to promote peace and encourage political leaders to refrain from using hate speech. The media has also played a role in highlighting the negative impact of political intolerance and promoting the importance of political dialogue. However, much more needs to be done to address the issue of political intolerance in Pakistan. Political parties need to be held accountable for their actions and encouraged to adopt a more inclusive and tolerant approach to politics. (Junaidi, 2022)

In addition, there needs to be greater investment in education and media literacy programs to help people better understand the dangers of hate speech and political intolerance. However, political intolerance is a serious problem in Pakistan, and it is perpetuated by the actions of political parties and their supporters. Addressing this issue requires a multi-pronged approach, including greater accountability for political parties, investment in education and media literacy programs, and efforts to promote political dialogue and peace. (Hermans, 2020)

Political Intolerance in the Context of Democratic Theory

Pakistan is a democratic country with parliamentary democracy where multiparty system is in place. People of different identities, cultures, religions and ideologies come across the country, being elected through voting, have been sit and shared common roof under a constitution. In a democratic state with so much diversity, difference of opinion, contradictory slogans, opposing narratives and harsh statements is normal matter. Since each strata has its own background, so every corner is society has different problems and solutions according its understanding and interpretation. A democratic country must has a vast space in which every social group, political entity, religious section can express themselves independently and effectively. If a democratic state is succeeded in reaching a position where all fault lines have been removed through making available entire resources and platforms equally to all fronts without any biases and discriminations, then state would be cherished a true democratic spirit publically and politically too. (Hermans, 2020)

Political intolerance can be defined as the unwillingness to tolerate different political views and ideologies, and the active suppression or exclusion of those who hold such views. In the context of democratic theory, political intolerance can undermine the principles of democracy, such as free speech, open debate, and the protection of minority rights. In a democratic society, citizens are expected to engage in robust discussions and debates about political issues, and to respect the right of others to hold different opinions. Political intolerance, however, can lead to a situation where certain groups or individuals are marginalized and excluded from political discourse, which can result in a lack of diversity and a narrowing of political ideas.

Political intolerance can lead to the suppression of minority rights and the imposition of majoritarian views. In a democratic society, it is important to protect the rights of minorities and to ensure that they are not discriminated against or subjected to unfair treatment. Political intolerance can undermine these principles, leading to a situation where certain groups are marginalized and excluded from political participation. Political intolerance is a threat to democratic theory, as it undermines the principles of free speech, open debate, and the protection of minority rights. A democratic society should strive to promote tolerance and diversity, and

to create an environment where all citizens can participate in political discourse and decision-making.

Role of Religious Sects in Political Intolerance in Pakistan

Tolerance has long been identified as a crucial feature of liberal democracies. Religious sects have played a significant role in contributing to political intolerance in Pakistan. The country has a diverse religious landscape, with multiple sects and sub-sects of Islam, as well as other religious minorities. However, the dominance of certain religious sects and their influence over the political system has created an environment of intolerance and sectarianism. One of the main ways in which religious sects contribute to political intolerance is through their involvement in politics. Many religious sects in Pakistan have formed their own political parties or have aligned themselves with mainstream political parties. These parties often advocate for policies that are specific to their own sectarian interests, which can lead to sectarian tension and conflict. (Stoeckel & Ceka, 2022)

Religious sects also use their influence over the media and public discourse to promote their own sectarian narratives, which can further exacerbate political intolerance. They often use hate speech and other forms of inflammatory rhetoric to demonize members of other sects or religious minorities, which can lead to violence and unrest. In addition, some religious sects have a history of using violence and coercion to advance their political and sectarian interests. This has led to a climate of fear and intimidation, which can discourage individuals from participating in the political process or expressing their views openly. Overall, the role of religious sects in contributing to political intolerance in Pakistan cannot be underestimated. Addressing this issue requires a multi-faceted approach that involves promoting a more inclusive and tolerant political culture, empowering marginalized communities, and holding those responsible for promoting hate speech and sectarianism accountable for their actions. (United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, 2016)

Role of Political Parties in Political Intolerance

Political parties in Pakistan have played a significant role in both exacerbating and mitigating political intolerance in the country. On the one hand, political parties have been

responsible for promoting sectarianism and violence through their support of certain religious sects or their own political agenda. On the other hand, political parties have also played an important role in promoting tolerance and democratic values, and have been key actors in efforts to address political intolerance in Pakistan. (Junaidi, 2022)

One of the main ways in which political parties have contributed to political intolerance is through their use of violent tactics and intimidation to suppress opposition or promote their own interests. This has often been the case in election campaigns, where political parties have used violence and intimidation to prevent rival parties or candidates from campaigning freely or to influence election outcomes. Furthermore, some political parties have aligned themselves with certain religious sects or extremist groups, which has contributed to sectarianism and violence in the country. These parties have often promoted policies that are specific to their own sectarian interests, which can further exacerbate political intolerance and conflict. (Stoeckel & Ceka, 2022)

However, political parties have also played a positive role in promoting tolerance and democratic values in Pakistan. Many political parties have advocated for policies that promote inclusivity, equality, and human rights, and have been active in campaigns against hate speech and sectarianism. In addition, political parties have been instrumental in promoting democratic processes and institutions in Pakistan. They have been key actors in the fight against authoritarianism and military interventions, and have worked to ensure that democratic institutions are protected and strengthened.

Overall, the role of political parties in promoting or addressing political intolerance in Pakistan is complex and multifaceted. While some parties have been responsible for exacerbating this issue, others have played a positive role in promoting tolerance and democratic values. Addressing political intolerance in Pakistan requires a concerted effort by all political parties to promote a more inclusive and tolerant political culture, and to work towards the common goal of strengthening democratic institutions and processes.

Politician's Part

Politicians in Pakistan have played a crucial role in contributing to political intolerance in the country. They have been involved in promoting sectarianism, violence, and hate speech, as well

as using their positions of power to suppress opposition and promote their own interests. At the same time, there have been politicians who have actively worked towards promoting tolerance, democratic values, and peaceful conflict resolution. One of the main ways in which politicians have contributed to political intolerance in Pakistan is through their use of hate speech and inflammatory rhetoric. This has often been used as a tool to mobilize supporters and demonize members of opposing political parties, religious sects, or ethnic groups. Such rhetoric has often resulted in violent clashes and tensions between different communities in Pakistan.

Furthermore, politicians have also been involved in supporting and promoting extremist groups and sectarian organizations. This has contributed to the polarization of society along sectarian and religious lines, leading to further intolerance and conflict. Additionally, some politicians have used their positions of power to suppress opposition and promote their own interests, using tactics such as violence, intimidation, and censorship. This has created a culture of fear and silence, preventing individuals from expressing their views freely and participating in the democratic process. (Junaidi, 2022)

However, there have been politicians who have actively worked towards promoting tolerance and democratic values in Pakistan. They have advocated for policies that promote inclusivity, equality, and human rights, and have worked towards building bridges between different communities in the country. Therefore, the role of politicians in promoting or addressing political intolerance in Pakistan is critical. While some politicians have contributed to the problem, others have worked towards finding solutions. Addressing political intolerance in Pakistan requires a concerted effort by all politicians to promote a more inclusive and tolerant political culture, and to work towards the common goal of strengthening democratic institutions and processes.

Role of Judiciary in Political Polarization

The role of judicial verdicts in Pakistan has been significant in shaping the political landscape and contributing to political polarization in the country. Over the years, judicial decisions have been instrumental in resolving disputes, holding politicians accountable, and upholding the rule of law.

However, there have also been instances where judicial verdicts have been perceived as being biased or politically motivated, leading to further polarization and mistrust. One of the main ways in which judicial verdicts have contributed to political polarization in Pakistan is through the perception of bias in the legal system. Some politicians and their supporters have alleged that the judiciary has been used as a tool to target certain political parties or individuals, while turning a blind eye to others. This has created a sense of mistrust and suspicion towards the legal system, and has reinforced political polarization along party lines.

Some judicial verdicts have also contributed to further divisions and conflicts between different communities in Pakistan. For instance, the controversial verdicts regarding blasphemy cases have led to violent clashes and tensions between religious groups, resulting in loss of life and property. Similarly, verdicts regarding sectarian and ethnic conflicts have also reinforced divisions and tensions in the country. However, there have also been instances where judicial decisions have helped to resolve political conflicts and promote tolerance and inclusivity. For example, the Supreme Court's decision to disqualify former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on corruption charges was seen by some as a move towards holding politicians accountable and promoting transparency in politics. (Stoeckel & Ceka, 2022)

Overall, the role of judicial verdicts in contributing to political polarization in Pakistan is complex and multi-faceted. While some verdicts have reinforced divisions and tensions, others have helped to promote transparency, accountability, and the rule of law. Addressing political polarization in Pakistan requires a strong commitment from all stakeholders, including the judiciary, to promote a more inclusive and tolerant political culture, and to work towards the common goal of strengthening democratic institutions and processes.

Role of Military establishment in Political polarization in Pakistan

The military establishment has played a significant role in shaping the political landscape of Pakistan and contributing to political polarization in the country. Since its inception, the military has had a strong influence on Pakistan's political system, and has intervened in politics several times. One of the ways in which the military establishment has contributed to

political polarization in Pakistan is through its involvement in politics. The military has often acted as a kingmaker in Pakistan's political scene, overthrowing democratically elected governments and installing military-backed regimes. This has led to a sense of mistrust and suspicion towards the military among certain political parties and their supporters, who see the military as a threat to democracy.

Furthermore, the military's involvement in politics has also contributed to a culture of impunity, where certain political actors are seen as being above the law. This has reinforced political polarization along party lines, with some political parties being seen as being favored by the military, while others are seen as being targeted. Moreover, the military's involvement in politics has also contributed to the perception of the military as a powerful institution that can act with impunity. This has reinforced the perception of the military as being above the law and not accountable to civilian authorities, which has further reinforced political polarization in the country. However, it is also important to note that the military has played a crucial role in maintaining stability and security in Pakistan, especially in the face of terrorist threats and external aggression. The military has also played a key role in providing relief and support during natural disasters and emergencies. (Junaidi, 2022)

Overall, the role of the military establishment in contributing to political polarization in Pakistan is complex and multifaceted. While the military has played a crucial role in maintaining stability and security, its involvement in politics has also contributed to a culture of impunity and mistrust, reinforcing political polarization along party lines. Addressing political polarization in Pakistan requires a strong commitment from all stakeholders, including the military, to promote a more inclusive and tolerant political culture, and to work towards the common goal of strengthening democratic institutions and processes.

Immature Politicians Still Endangering Democracy

Political immaturity among politicians in Pakistan remains a significant threat to the fragile democracy in the country. Despite a long history of political activism and democratic struggle, political leaders in Pakistan often prioritize their own personal and party interests over the welfare of the country and its people. One of the main manifestations of political

immaturity among politicians in Pakistan is the lack of a culture of consensus-building and compromise. Political leaders are often unable or unwilling to work together to find common ground and reach agreements on critical issues, resulting in political gridlock and a failure to address the pressing challenges facing the country. (Hurwitz & Mondak, 2002)

Moreover, many politicians in Pakistan also engage in divisive and polarizing rhetoric, exacerbating existing fault lines along ethnic, religious, and regional lines. This not only undermines the stability of the country but also undermines the trust and confidence of the people in the democratic system and its ability to deliver for them. In addition, many politicians in Pakistan also lack a clear understanding of the principles and values that underpin democracy, such as the rule of law, respect for human rights, and the importance of independent institutions. This has led to a situation where the democratic process is often undermined by political interference in the judiciary, bureaucracy, and law enforcement agencies. Furthermore, political immaturity has also contributed to a culture of political patronage and corruption, where political leaders use their positions of power to amass wealth and influence at the expense of the public interest. This has further eroded the legitimacy of the political system in the eyes of the people and reinforced the perception that the political elite is only interested in serving their own interests. Although limits of tolerance is debated, the extent to which citizens are open and willing to accommodate others who are different. (Stoeckel & Ceka, 2022)

To address political immaturity among politicians in Pakistan, there is a need for a concerted effort to promote a culture of accountability and transparency in the political process. This requires strengthening independent institutions, such as the judiciary, the media, and civil society, to ensure that they can play an effective role in holding politicians accountable for their actions. It also requires political leaders to prioritize the public interest over their own personal and party interests and to work together to find consensus and compromise on critical issues. Overall, the political immaturity of politicians in Pakistan remains a significant threat to the country's fragile democracy. Addressing this challenge requires a long-term and sustained effort to promote a culture of accountability and transparency in the political process and to foster a greater understanding among political leaders of the

importance of democratic principles and values. (Hurwitz & Mondak, 2002)

Irreversible and Blind Political Admirers

It is true that in Pakistan, there is a tendency towards permanent and blind political following among some segments of the population. This can be seen in the way that some people continue to support political parties or leaders regardless of their policies, actions, or track record. While there are many reasons for this phenomenon, including historical and cultural factors, it is ultimately detrimental to the health of the country's democracy. One of the most significant problems with blind political following is that it can lead to the uncritical acceptance of flawed policies or actions. When people are so committed to a particular political party or leader that they are unwilling to question their decisions or hold them accountable for their actions, it can create an environment where corruption, abuse of power, and other forms of malfeasance can go unchecked. This can undermine the legitimacy of the political system and erode public trust in the government. (Junaidi, 2022)

Furthermore, blind political following can also contribute to political polarization and division within society. When people are so committed to a particular political party or leader that they are unwilling to engage with opposing viewpoints or consider alternative perspectives, it can create an "us vs. them" mentality that makes it difficult to find common ground and build consensus. This can lead to gridlock and political instability, which can further undermine the functioning of democracy. It is important for citizens to engage in critical thinking and evaluate political parties and leaders based on their policies, actions, and track record. Blind political following can be counterproductive, and it is important to encourage a political culture that values open dialogue, critical thinking, and accountability. By doing so, Pakistan can build a stronger, more resilient democracy that serves the interests of all its citizens. (Crawford, 2014)

Productive Criticism not Buyable

I respectfully disagree with the statement that productive criticism is not encouraged in Pakistan. While it is true that there are challenges to freedom of expression and press freedom in the country, there are also many individuals and

groups who engage in productive criticism and promote constructive dialogue. One of the most significant examples of this is the vibrant civil society sector in Pakistan, which includes human rights organizations, advocacy groups, and other grassroots movements. These organizations play a crucial role in promoting accountability and transparency in government, and they often engage in constructive criticism of policies and actions that they believe are not in the best interests of the public. Additionally, there are many independent media outlets in Pakistan that provide a platform for critical voices and promote open dialogue. While there have been instances of censorship and harassment of journalists, many media outlets continue to operate and provide important coverage of political and social issues. (Alvi, 2022)

It is also worth noting that the political landscape in Pakistan is diverse and complex, with many different political parties and interest groups competing for power and influence. This means that there is often robust debate and discussion around policy issues and political decisions, which can help to promote accountability and prevent abuses of power. Of course, there are also challenges to productive criticism in Pakistan, including legal restrictions on freedom of expression, threats and violence against journalists and activists, and a general climate of political polarization and division. However, it is important to recognize the many individuals and groups who are working to promote constructive dialogue and hold those in power accountable.

Revengeful Governments

It is a concerning issue when a political government uses its tenure to take revenge from opponents, rather than focusing on governance and serving the people. Unfortunately, this kind of behavior is not unique to Pakistan and can be seen in other countries as well. When politicians prioritize personal or political vendettas over the needs of the people, it can lead to a breakdown of trust in government and erode democratic institutions. This behavior can also create a culture of fear and intimidation, where individuals and groups feel targeted for their political beliefs or affiliations. It is important for governments to prioritize the rule of law and ensure that all citizens are treated fairly and justly, regardless of their political beliefs. This means that investigations and legal proceedings

should be conducted impartially, without political interference or bias.

In addition, it is crucial for governments to focus on addressing the needs and concerns of their citizens, rather than getting caught up in political battles. This can include implementing policies and programs that promote economic development, social welfare, and education, as well as promoting transparency and accountability in government. Ultimately, it is up to citizens to hold their elected officials accountable and demand that they prioritize the public good over personal or political gain. This can involve engaging in peaceful protest, speaking out against injustice, and participating in democratic processes such as voting and advocacy.

Politician's Exploitation

Politicians may use their workers or supporters in various ways to defend their corrupt practices. Some of the common methods include:

1. **Creating a Cult of Personality:** Politicians may create a cult of personality around themselves, which makes it difficult for their supporters to accept any criticism of the leader. They may use their charisma and charm to persuade their workers that they are being falsely accused.
2. **Bribery:** Politicians may offer money or other benefits to their workers to defend their corrupt practices. This could include offering them a job, a promotion or a higher salary, in return for their loyalty.
3. **Threats and Intimidation:** Politicians may use threats and intimidation tactics to silence their workers from speaking out against their corrupt practices. This could include physical violence, blackmail or other forms of coercion.
4. **Spreading Disinformation:** Politicians may use their workers to spread disinformation and propaganda, in order to deflect attention away from their corrupt practices. This could include creating false narratives or spreading rumors to discredit their accusers.
5. **Creating a Political Machine:** Politicians may create a political machine by appointing their supporters to key positions in government, media or other influential organizations. This could help to manipulate the public

opinion and protect them from being held accountable for their corrupt practices.

The politicians may use a range of methods to exploit their workers and supporters to defend their corrupt practices, including creating a cult of personality, bribery, threats and intimidation, spreading disinformation and creating a political machine. Whereas these narratives underscore symmetries in the processes underlying political prejudice, they point toward fundamental imbalances in the processes underlying political intolerance of left-wing and right-wing groups. (Crawford, 2014)

Detrimental Consequences

Political intolerance in Pakistan has had a number of harmful effects on the nation as a whole. Some of the major harms are:

1. **Polarization:** Political intolerance has led to deep divisions in Pakistani society along political lines. This has created a polarized environment in which people are increasingly unwilling to engage with those who hold different political views, leading to social fragmentation and a breakdown in social cohesion.
2. **Violence:** Political intolerance has often led to violence and the use of force to suppress opposition voices. This has included acts of terrorism, assassination, and physical attacks on political opponents, journalists, and civil society activists.
3. **Impaired democratic process:** Political intolerance has undermined the democratic process in Pakistan by restricting the ability of citizens to express their views freely and participate in the political process. This has resulted in a weakening of democratic institutions and an erosion of democratic norms and values.
4. **Economic harm:** Political intolerance has had negative effects on the economy, including reduced foreign investment and economic growth. This is because political instability and uncertainty create an environment that is unfavorable to investment and economic development.
5. **Social unrest:** Political intolerance has also contributed to social unrest in Pakistan, including protests, strikes, and other forms of civil unrest. This has disrupted normal life and created further economic and social challenges for the country.

In summary, political intolerance in Pakistan has had a number of negative effects on the nation as a whole, including polarization, violence, impaired democracy, economic harm, and social unrest. (Alvi, 2022)

Playing Gadget for Adversaries

Pakistan's rivals or non-state actors can certainly exploit political intolerance as a flaw line against the country. Political intolerance creates divisions within society and weakens the country's democratic institutions and norms, making it more vulnerable to external threats. Pakistan's enemies or non-state actors could exploit these divisions to create unrest and instability within the country, by supporting or funding extremist groups that propagate violence and hate speech against certain political or ethnic groups. They could also use propaganda to exacerbate existing political tensions and exacerbate the polarization within society. (Gibson, 1992)

Moreover, external actors could use political intolerance in Pakistan to undermine the country's image and reputation internationally. They could use media campaigns to portray Pakistan as an unstable and intolerant country, making it more difficult for Pakistan to attract foreign investment and support. It is important for Pakistan to address political intolerance and work towards creating a more inclusive and tolerant political environment. This can be done through promoting dialogue and constructive engagement between political parties, strengthening democratic institutions, and fostering a culture of respect for diversity and free expression.

Politician's Role to Promote Tolerance in Politics: A Way Out

Politicians in Pakistan can play a vital role in promoting tolerance and fostering a more inclusive political environment. Here are some ways politicians can contribute to promoting tolerance in Pakistan's politics:

1. Promote dialogue and engagement: Politicians can foster dialogue and engage in constructive discussions with individuals and groups who hold different political views. This can help to create a more inclusive political environment and promote respect for diversity of opinion.
2. Advocate for tolerance and respect: Politicians can use their platforms to promote the values of tolerance and respect for diversity of opinion. They can publicly

denounce hate speech and violent rhetoric, and advocate for peaceful dialogue and constructive engagement.

3. Strengthen democratic institutions: Politicians can work to strengthen democratic institutions in Pakistan by promoting fair and free elections, strengthening the rule of law, and protecting the rights of all citizens, regardless of political affiliation or background.
4. Foster a culture of accountability: Politicians can foster a culture of accountability by holding themselves and their fellow politicians accountable for their actions and words. This can help to build trust among citizens and promote a more transparent and accountable political environment.
5. Reach out to marginalized groups: Politicians can reach out to marginalized groups and promote policies that address their needs and concerns. This can help to reduce polarization and promote social cohesion.

Lastly, politicians can play a significant role in promoting tolerance and fostering a more inclusive political environment in Pakistan. By engaging in constructive dialogue, promoting respect for diversity, strengthening democratic institutions, fostering a culture of accountability, and reaching out to marginalized groups, politicians can contribute to building a more peaceful and prosperous Pakistan.

Parliaments Obligations

The parliament plays a crucial role in reducing political intolerance by promoting a culture of tolerance and democratic values. Here are some ways in which the parliament can help reduce political intolerance:

1. Encourage Civil Discourse: The parliament can set an example of civil discourse by modeling respectful behavior and encouraging constructive debate. Members of parliament should avoid personal attacks and instead focus on the issues at hand.
2. Foster Diversity: The parliament should promote diversity by ensuring that there is representation of different groups and opinions. This can be achieved through measures such as quotas for women and minorities, or by creating safe spaces for marginalized voices to be heard.

3. **Protect Free Speech:** The parliament should protect the right to free speech, even if it means protecting unpopular views. This can be done by ensuring that laws and regulations do not unfairly restrict speech, and by speaking out against attempts to silence dissenting voices.
4. **Combat Hate Speech:** The parliament should actively combat hate speech and discrimination by passing laws and creating policies that promote equality and prevent discrimination. Members of parliament can also speak out against hate speech and promote a culture of tolerance and respect.
5. **Engage with the Public:** The parliament should engage with the public by holding open hearings and public forums to hear the concerns and ideas of citizens. This can help to promote a culture of dialogue and collaboration.

In summary, the parliament can play an important role in reducing political intolerance by promoting civil discourse, fostering diversity, protecting free speech, combating hate speech, and engaging with the public. By modeling these behaviors and values, the parliament can help to create a more tolerant and democratic society. (Alvi, 2022)

What should Judiciary do?

The judiciary can play a vital role in reducing political intolerance by upholding the rule of law, protecting individual rights, and ensuring that all individuals are treated fairly and impartially. Here are some ways in which the judiciary can help reduce political intolerance:

1. **Protect Individual Rights:** The judiciary should protect individual rights, including the right to free speech and expression, the right to assembly, and the right to vote. By doing so, the judiciary can help ensure that all individuals have the opportunity to participate in political discourse without fear of retaliation or discrimination.
2. **Uphold the Rule of Law:** The judiciary should uphold the rule of law, ensuring that all individuals are treated equally and fairly under the law. This can help prevent the abuse of power and reduce the risk of political intolerance.

3. **Prevent Discrimination:** The judiciary should prevent discrimination on the basis of race, gender, religion, or any other protected characteristic. This can help ensure that all individuals are treated with respect and dignity, regardless of their beliefs or opinions.
4. **Punish Hate Speech and Incitement to Violence:** The judiciary should punish hate speech and incitement to violence, which can help prevent political intolerance from escalating into physical harm. This can be done by enforcing existing laws against hate speech and incitement to violence, as well as by creating new laws or policies to address these issues.
5. **Promote Judicial Independence:** The judiciary should be independent from political influence and should make decisions based on the law and evidence, rather than political considerations. This can help ensure that individuals are treated fairly and impartially, regardless of their political beliefs or affiliations.

In short, the judiciary can play an important role in reducing political intolerance by protecting individual rights, upholding the rule of law, preventing discrimination, punishing hate speech and incitement to violence, and promoting judicial independence. It is consistent with the ideological conflict hypothesis, which posits ideological symmetry in intergroup outcomes such as political intolerance and prejudice. By doing so, the judiciary can help promote a more tolerant and democratic society. (Crawford, 2014)

Conclusion

In conclusion, the research article "Political Intolerance and Role of Political Parties: Pakistan's Perspective Post 2010" sheds light on the issue of political intolerance in Pakistan and the role of political parties in exacerbating or mitigating this problem. The article provides an in-depth analysis of the political landscape in Pakistan post-2010, and highlights the challenges faced by political parties in promoting tolerance and democratic values in a country that has a history of political instability and military interventions.

The article argues that political parties play a crucial role in promoting tolerance and democracy in Pakistan, and that they have a responsibility to create a more inclusive and tolerant political culture. The article also identifies several factors that contribute to political intolerance in Pakistan,

including religious extremism, sectarianism, and violence. It is needed to recognize that intolerance is not unique to any particular political party or group, but rather a broader societal issue that needs to be addressed collectively. To foster a more inclusive and tolerant society, it is crucial to promote dialogue, respect diversity, and encourage constructive engagement between political parties and civil society actors.

It is essential to foster a political environment that is based on respect for diverse viewpoints, peaceful dialogue, and constructive engagement. It is the responsibility of all political parties, civil society actors, and individuals to work together to promote tolerance and respect for the democratic process. Only by doing so, Pakistan can move towards a more inclusive and democratic society that can address the challenges it faces. Overall, the article provides valuable insights into the complex issue of political intolerance in Pakistan, and highlights the important role that political parties can play in addressing this problem. The research findings and recommendations can serve as a useful guide for policymakers, civil society organizations, and political parties who are working towards promoting democratic values and a more tolerant political culture in Pakistan.

References

- Akhtar, N. (2009). Polarized Politics: The Challenge of Democracy in Pakistan. *International Journal on World Peace*, 31-63.
- A. (2016). *Political intolerance*. Wentworth Press.
- A. (2022, April 19). Political Intolerance has Polarised Pakistan Society to Extreme Levels. *The Print*.
<https://theprint.in/world/political-intolerance-has-polarised-pakistan-society-to-extreme-levels/922750/>.
- Afzal, S. N. (n.d). Political Intolerance and Societal Extremism in Pakistan. <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/political-intolerance-societal-extremism-pakistan-nauman-afzal/>.
- Alvi, F. A. (2022, March 26). All Major Political Forces Have Contributed To The Current Culture Of Abuse. *The Friday Times - Naya Daur*.
<https://www.thefridaytimes.com/2022/03/26/all-major-political-forces-have-contributed-to-the-current-culture-of-abuse/>.
- Crawford, J. T. (2014). Ideological symmetries and asymmetries in political intolerance and prejudice toward political activist groups. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*, 55, 284–298. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jesp.2014.08.002>.

- Cain, M. (2015). "Political Intolerance in the 21st Century: The Role of Ideology and Emotion in Determining Intolerant Judgments". Masters Theses. 2339.
<https://thekeep.eiu.edu/theses/2339>.
- Fox, G. J., & Nolte, G. (2000). *Intolerant democracies*. Cambridge University Press EBooks, 389–435.
<https://doi.org/10.1017/cbo9780511522307.013>.
- Ferguson, M. K., Branscombe, N. R., & Reynolds, K. J. (2019). Social psychological research on prejudice as collective action supporting emergent ingroup members. *British Journal of Social Psychology*, 58(1), 1–32.
<https://doi.org/10.1111/bjso.12294>.
- Gibson, J. L. (1992). The Political Consequences of Intolerance: Cultural Conformity and Political Freedom. *American Political Science Review*, 86(2), 338–356.
<https://doi.org/10.2307/1964224>.
- Hurwitz, J., & Mondak, J. J. (2002). Democratic Principles, Discrimination and Political Intolerance. *British Journal of Political Science*, 32(01).
<https://doi.org/10.1017/s0007123402000042>.
- Hermans, H. J. M. (2020). *Inner Democracy and Political Intolerance*. Oxford University Press EBooks, 33–54.
<https://doi.org/10.1093/oso/9780197501023.003.0003>.
- Junaidi, I. (2022, April 19). Growing political intolerance divides already polarised society in Pakistan. DAWN.COM.
<https://www.dawn.com/news/1685714>.
- Jacobs, White, and Ovey: *The European Convention on Human Rights*. (n.d.). Bernadette Rainey, Pamela McCormick, Clare Ovey - Oxford University Press.
<https://global.oup.com/academic/product/jacobs-white-and-ovey-the-european-convention-on-human-rights-9780198847137?cc=pk&lang=en&>.
- Stoeckel, F., & Ceka, B. (2022). Political Tolerance in Europe: The Role of Conspiratorial Thinking and Cosmopolitanism. *European Journal of Political Research*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1475-6765.12527>.
- T. (2022, August 12). Pakistan's growing political intolerance. <https://tribune.com.pk/story/2367592/pakistans-growing-political-intolerance>.
- The Current Situation in Pakistan. (n.d.). United States Institute of Peace.
<https://www.usip.org/publications/2023/01/current-situation-pakistan>.
- The rise of religious intolerance in the politics of Pakistan? (2018, April 10). South Asia@LSE.
<https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/southasia/2018/04/16/the-rise-of-religious-intolerance-in-the-politics-of-pakistan/>.

Special Issue On Multidisciplinary Research

United States Commission on International Religious Freedom. (2016). Teaching Intolerance In Pakistan (Religious Bias In Public School Textbooks).

<https://www.uscirf.gov/sites/default/files/Teaching%20Intolerance%20in%20Pakistan>

The Political Consequences of Intolerance: Cultural Conformity and Political Freedom on JSTOR. (n.d.).

<https://www.jstor.org/stable/1964224>.