

Asma Jahangir (1952 – 2018)

Asma Jahangir, former UN special rapporteur on religion and belief, was a human rights activist who has worked courageously both in Pakistan and internationally for decades to prevent the persecution of religious minorities, women, and the exploitation of children. She was President of the Supreme Court Bar Association of Pakistan. Ms Jahangir recently called for an inquiry into reports of Pakistan's security apparatus's plot to assassinate her. We have worked with her at the UN in Geneva on a number of human rights issues.

"We never learnt the right lessons. We never went to the root of the problem. Once you start politicising religion, you play with fire and you get burnt as well. Another lesson we did not learn is that Muslims are not homogenous."

Asma Jahangir (2017 Amartya Sen lecture)

Updated 12 Feb 2018: The NSS was saddened to learn of Asma's death on 11 Feb 2018. She is survived by her husband, son and two daughters. The NSS has [paid tribute to her here](#). See also:

- [Asma Jahangir: The street fighter](#)
- [Prominent Pakistani rights activist Asma Jahangir dies aged 66](#)