CRTI Lahore Declaration

January 31, 2013

We, the participants of conference on ‘Punjab Right to Information Law’, held on January 31, 2013 in Lahore, referring to Article 19-A of the Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan, unanimously demand the following:

|  |
| --- |
| 1. That that right to information law for Punjab be enacted on priority bases. |
| 1. Those lacunas in the draft freedom of information law are removed in light of CRTI-CPDI Punjab Model Right to Information Law and ‘CRTI Specific Recommendations to Improve Punjab Draft Freedom of Information Law’. |
| 1. That notings on the file and minutes of the meetings be declared public documents in Punjab right to Information Law. |
| 1. That it should be titled as Punjab Right to Information Act and not Punjab Freedom of Information Act as the draft law suggests. |
| 1. The proposed Punjab Information Commission should include at least 1 person from the civil society with a distinguished record of at least 15 years of work on human rights or governance issues. 2. 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. |