

CRTI Charter of Demands for Punjab Government for Implementation of the Punjab Transparency and Right to Information Act 2013

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Coalition on Right to Information, (CRTI) a consortium of 52 civil society groups makes following demands on Punjab government for implementation of the Punjab Transparency and Right to Information Act 2013:

- ① Chief Information Commissioners and 2 Information Commissioners at Punjab Information Commission be appointed on urgent basis in line with criterion mentioned in Section 5 of the Punjab Transparency and Right to Information Act 2013.
- ② Punjab government should approve service rules for Punjab Information Commission so that it could recruit staff to carry out its functions. In the meanwhile, Punjab government should provide requisite staff to Punjab Information Commission.
- ③ Punjab government should instruct public bodies to implement Section 4 of Punjab RTI law pertaining to proactive disclosure of information through web sites and provide necessary funds to public bodies in this regard.
- ④ Punjab government should ensure that Public Information Officers (PIOs) are designated and notified in all public bodies as required by Section 7 of the law. and in line with the guidelines issued by the Commission and also ensure that their contact details are easily accessible through notice-boards, websites and publications. Public Information Officers (PIOs) should be designated by post and not by name to ensure continuity in case of retirement, transfer or death of a Public Information Officer.
- ⑤ Punjab government should take steps to ensure indexation and computerisation of records in all public bodies and should allocate requisite funds in the budget for public bodies for this purpose.
- ⑥ Punjab government should provide adequate funds and support to the Commission so that it could effectively perform its statutory responsibilities in terms of public awareness and training of PIOs. In the FY 2015-16, an amount of only one million rupees was allocated for advertisements and publicity, which was insufficient for public awareness in the province.