



Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission Briefing

Panelist Biographies

Human Rights in Pakistan

Panel I



Dr. Waris Husain is an adjunct professor of law at the Howard University School of Law and human rights practitioner. Dr. Husain previously served as Policy Analyst for South Asia at the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom. Dr. Husain received his S.J.D. degree from American University Washington College of Law in 2017, specializing in constitutional and comparative law. His dissertation focused on the development of judicial review in the Supreme Courts of Pakistan, India, and the United States. Dr. Husain received his J.D. from the Howard University School of Law in 2011 and his LL.M. at American University Washington College of Law, specializing in international human rights and international business in 2013.



Raza Ahmad Rumi is a policy analyst, journalist, and an author. He is a Distinguished Lecturer in Human Rights at Roosevelt House Public Policy Institute at Hunter College, New York. He is also a visiting faculty member at the Brooks School of Public Policy at Cornell University. From 2015 to 2023, Mr. Rumi taught at Ithaca College, where he also served as the Director of Park Center for Independent Media. In 2016, he was visiting faculty at New York University. Mr. Rumi has been a fellow at the New America Foundation, United States Institute of Peace and the National Endowment for Democracy. He is also a member of the Laboratory for Global Performance and Politics at Georgetown University. Before moving to the United States, he headed think tanks and nonprofits in Pakistan and worked in broadcast media. His foray into public affairs came after working as an officer of the Pakistan Administrative Service, the United Nations Mission in Kosovo, and the Asian Development Bank.

Moderator



Tariq Ahmad is a Foreign Law Specialist with the Law Library of Congress. He has provided legal research reports and memos for congressional staff and committees, executive branch agencies, the federal judiciary and the general public since joining the Law Library of Congress in 2010. His research covers mostly South Asian jurisdictions, including India, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh. He takes a particular research interest in religion and law issues in South Asia and has drafted reports on the validity of Islamic and Hindu marriages in Pakistan and India, and on blasphemy and anti-conversion laws in the region. Mr. Ahmad holds an LLM degree in International Law from American University's Washington College of Law and an LLB from University College London. He also holds a BA in Political Science from Ohio State University.