

PRESS RELEASE

THE KASHMIR-ORIGIN LEGAL IDENTITY, DOCUMENTATION & REPRESENTATION FOUNDATION (KLIRF)

“KLIRF” Releases Landmark Policy Brief on Undocumented Kashmiri-Origin Communities in Pakistan

Toronto / Faisalabad, 23 June 2026. The Kashmir-Origin Legal Identity, Documentation & Representation Foundation (KLIRF) has released a groundbreaking policy brief titled “Recognising the Invisible: Undocumented Kashmiri-Origin Communities in Pakistan and the Need for Legal Identity Reform.” The brief highlights the existence of a large, multi-generational Kashmiri-origin population in Pakistan whose ancestral identity has never been formally documented by either Pakistan or Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJK).

According to KLIRF’s research, an estimated 0.65 to 0.88 million Kashmiris migrated from the princely State of Jammu & Kashmir to British India between 1850 and 1947. Their descendants today number between 4.8 and 6.2 million, yet they remain absent from census categories, AJK State Subject records, and institutional frameworks related to Kashmir.

A Hidden Kashmiri Population Without Legal Kashmiri Identity

The brief explains that while these communities became Pakistani citizens under the Pakistan Citizenship Act, 1951, their Kashmiri legal identity was never recorded. Because they migrated before 1947 and were never registered as State Subjects under the 1927 Notification, they fall outside AJK’s hereditary documentation system.

“This is a population that has lived in Pakistan for generations, contributed to its economy and society, and preserved its Kashmiri heritage yet it remains invisible in official records,” said Munir Ahmed Dar, Chairman of KLIRF. “Our goal is not to create new political categories, but to ensure historical accuracy, administrative fairness, and recognition of a community that has been overlooked for decades.”

Policy Brief:

KLIRF’s policy brief identifies three major gaps:

- No recognition in Pakistan’s census or NADRA systems.
- No pathway to State Subject documentation in AJK for families who migrated before 1947.
- No representation in Pakistan’s Kashmir-related policymaking bodies.

The result is a large diaspora with no formal identity link to the region from which their families originated.

KLIRF’s Policy Recommendations

The brief proposes a four-part reform agenda:

1. National recognition category: Introduce a voluntary “Kashmiri Origin” identifier in census and NADRA systems.
2. Archival and genealogical programme: Establish a Kashmiri Origin Documentation Unit to digitise family records and issue non-territorial Kashmiri Origin Certificates.
3. AJK–Pakistan coordination mechanism: Create a joint working group to define criteria for recognising pre-1947 Pakistan-settled Kashmiri families and explore a special SSC-1/SSC-2 conversion window.
4. Representation and voice: Reserve consultative seats for Kashmiri-origin Pakistanis in parliamentary committees, liaison forums, and official delegations on Kashmir.

KLIRF’s Mission

KLIRF aims to serve as a research and documentation hub for Kashmiri-origin families across Pakistan. The organisation is conducting district-wise mapping, population modelling, and legal analysis to support evidence-based reform.

“Our work is about restoring visibility to a community that history forgot to record,” said Dar. “Identity is not only a matter of memory it is a matter of justice.”

Media Contact

Munir Ahmed Dar

Chairman

Kashmir-Origin Legal Identity, Documentation & Representation Foundation (KLIRF)

Email: info@klirf.org

Phone: +1 (437) 237-1014

Website: www.klirf.org