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Punjab CM Vows Crackdown on Child Trafficking

July 31, 2025

— Categories: Crime



Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has reaffirmed her government's commitment to ending child trafficking across the province. Her statement came in connection with the World Day Against Human Trafficking.

In a strong message, CM Maryam said, "I am determined that every child in Punjab must be protected against human trafficking. Exploitation of children is not tolerated under any circumstances."

She emphasized the need for parents to remain vigilant, especially when their children seek employment opportunities. “Parents should protect from trafficking their children who go in search of employment,” she said.

The Chief Minister also urged the public to avoid illegal migration routes and instead use lawful means when traveling abroad. Recalling a recent tragedy, she noted, “The death of dozens in a boat capsized on the way to Europe through illegal means was a major human loss. Human traffickers do not hesitate to play with lives.”

Authorities in Punjab have reportedly intensified efforts to monitor vulnerable regions and tighten checks at exit points, in cooperation with the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA). Public awareness campaigns are also being launched in schools and communities to educate families about the dangers of trafficking.

In a separate development, the Chief Minister expressed pride in the appointment of **Nida Saleh**, the first female driver of the Orange Line Metro Train (OLMT). Her appointment marks a significant milestone in promoting gender representation in public transportation roles. “This achievement is a proud moment for Punjab,” CM Maryam stated, praising the progress in women’s participation in public service.

The provincial government has pledged to support victims of trafficking with rehabilitation and legal aid, and to hold traffickers accountable under the law.

The World Day Against Human Trafficking is observed globally to raise awareness and promote action to combat trafficking in persons, especially children. Punjab’s latest stance highlights growing efforts within Pakistan to align with international standards for human rights protection.