

# fidh



**Zohra YUSUF**

**Vice-President**

**Chairperson of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP)**

**Profession:** Creative Director

**Nationality:** Pakistani

**Date and place of birth :** 2 May 1950, India

**Languages :** English, Urdu

**Areas of specialization:** Defender of women rights and great knowledge of south Asia

Zohra Yusuf is an activist and journalist working particularly on Human Rights, media and women's rights issues.

After graduating from Dhaka University (Bangladesh), she started a career as an editor for the Dawn group, one of Pakistan's largest newspaper groups.

She has always been an active defender of women's rights. She became a member of the Shirkat Gah Women's Resource Centre in 1979. Later, she was a council member of the Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development for six years. Above all, she is a founding member of the Women's Action Forum, a lobbying and advocacy organization which is doing public-awareness campaigns on behalf of women in Pakistan.

Ms Yusuf is also a bureau member of the South Asians for Human Rights organization and was a board member of the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative for seven years.

Currently, she serves as Chairperson of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP), an organisation she joined in 1988. She was elected council member in 1990 and served as Vice Chairperson and as Secretary General before becoming Chairperson in 2011. HRCP is a member organisation of the FIDH.

Besides, Zohra Yusuf continues to do some freelance writing on issues related to human rights and the media. She also contributed chapters to several books on the media, arts and conflict resolution

Zohra Yusuf was elected Vice-President of the FIDH in May 2013.