

CHARTER FOR COMPASSIONATE KARACHI

Compassion has historically been an essential part of our religious and social tradition. It compels us to always treat others as we wish to be treated ourselves. Karachi with its diverse religious, political and ethnic groups has embodied these principles allowing its citizens to coexist in peace and harmony over the centuries. However, in the last few decades these values have gradually declined due to a number of demographic, political and economic factors and as a result the city has been embroiled in communal tension, violence and misgovernance.

Compassionate Karachi is a civil society movement that adopts, affirms and undertakes to regain these lost characteristics of the metropolis and to make Karachi the first compassionate city in the country, we commit to promote compassionate action amongst all communities by engaging them through schools, workplaces, homes businesses and government; and restore the sense of citizenship, unity, and ownership among the masses and make them the change bearers of their respective communities.

We therefore call upon all citizens to acknowledge their role to make compassion a rich and vibrant force in our diverse and fractured city. We undertake to strive together – to provide quality education to all children, irrespective of their background of financial means – for every pedestrian, every worker, every youth to stroll the streets of the city without concern for safety and security – for all citizens living in the city to have access to standard medical facilities at affordable rates according to their economic means – for clean food and water, sanitation facilities to be the right of every individual and without anyone having to sleep hungry or homeless – for laws to be respected by all and applied equally, irrespective of their social, economic, or political status.

Born of our deep interdependence, compassion is essential to all human relationships and for a fulfilled community. We the concerned society members are joining together under this charter, inspired by hundreds of thousands of compassionate visions shared by its citizens to make Karachi a just, peaceful, and prosperous city. We will strive and avail whatever opportunity and resources at our means to fulfill this vision for generations to come.