

# Thompson Rivers University Students' Union

805 TRU Way, Kamloops BC, V2C 0C8



Chief Minister Punjab Usman Buzdar  
Chief Minister's Office  
7 Club Road, GOR 1, Lahore, Pakistan

March 15, 2021

## Immediate And Unconditional Release Of Shagufta Kausar And Shafqat Emmanuel

Dear, Chief Minister and His Excellency

On behalf of the Thompson Rivers University Students' Union, we call on you to immediately and unconditionally release **Shagufta Kausar** and **Shafqat Emmanuel**, provide adequate security upon their release, and repeal unfair blasphemy laws which criminalized this couple.

We are deeply concerned by the reports from Amnesty International that Pakistan's blasphemy laws enable abuse and violate international legal obligations to respect and protect human rights including freedom of religion or belief, especially for religious minorities. There's also concern that the laws are extremely vague, carry heavy penalties, and don't allow a fair judicial process. Judges, defence lawyers, witnesses, and families of victims have been intimidated or even killed in court.

We believe you have an obligation under international law to investigate the cases of **Shagufta Kausar** and **Shafqat Emmanuel** and to release and protect them as soon as possible. Further, a complete overhaul and repeal of the current "blasphemy laws" should be undertaken to protect fundamental rights to freedom of religion and belief for all Pakistanis.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "N Lane".

Nathan Lane  
Executive Director  
TRU Students' Union

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mackenzie Francoeur".

Mackenzie Francoeur  
Vice President Equity  
TRU Students' Union

cc: Raza Bashir Tarar – High Commissioner for Pakistan