

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 12, 2025

The Honorable Maryam Nawaz Sharif
Chief Minister of Punjab
Office of the Chief Minister
8 Club Road, GOR-I,
Lahore, Pakistan

Dear Chief Minister Sharif,

On behalf of the Congressional Pakistan Caucus, we extend our sincere appreciation for your government's visionary efforts to modernize Punjab's brick kiln industry as a means to address environmental challenges and eliminate bonded labor.

According to the United States Department of State's "2022 Trafficking in Persons Report: Pakistan," more than 4.5million people remain trapped in the peshgi system — ... an unjust labor practice which that has endured for centuries throughout South Asia."

We were briefed by Mr. Mike Brickley, President of Families Set Free, and Dr. Rubina Feroze Bhatti, International Leadership Scholar, on your administration's strong commitment to this transformative initiative. The mechanization and modernization of this critical sector will not only support Pakistan in fulfilling its international obligations to end bonded labor but also position Punjab as a more attractive destination for foreign direct investment, particularly from American businesses committed to ethical and sustainable engagement.

This progress is vital to enhancing bilateral economic relations and strengthening the overall Pakistan– U.S. partnership, fostering long-term growth and cooperation. Punjab is well-positioned to serve as a pilot province for this initiative, setting a benchmark for your nation. Modernizing brick kilns is a critical step that will not only advance human rights but will also make Pakistan more attractive to long term foreign investment.

The Pakistan Caucus wholeheartedly supports all efforts to end bonded labor. Please do not hesitate to reach out if there is any way the Caucus can be helpful in this endeavor. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Thomas R. Suozzi

Thomas R. Suozzi
Member of Congress

Jack Bergman

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Member of Congress