

*AS*  
**[~~TO BE~~ INTRODUCED IN THE SENATE]**

**A**

**BILL**

*further to amend the Guardians and Wards Act, 1890*

**WHEREAS** it is expedient further to amend the Guardians and Wards Act, 1890 (VIII of 1890) for the purposes hereinafter appearing;

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

**1. Short title and commencement.**—(1) This Act may be called the Guardians and Wards (Amendment) Act, 2021.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

**2. Amendment of section 19 Act VIII of 1890.**— In the Guardians and Wards Act, 1890 (VIII of 1890), in section 19, for clause (b), the following shall be substituted, namely:-

"(b) of a minor, other than a married female, whose father or mother is living and is not, in the opinion of the court, unfit to be guardian of the person of the minor, or".

**STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS**

The Constitution of Pakistan guarantees equality of status and equality of opportunity to all citizens, irrespective of the fact, whether they are men and women. It provides that all citizens are equal before law and there shall be no discrimination on the basis of sex. There is a growing demand for making laws free from gender bias and to provide legal equality to women in all spheres of life.

2. With the above objectives in view, it is proposed to amend the Guardians and Wards Act, 1890 so as to bring in gender equality and include the mother along with the father as a fit person to be appointed as guardian so that courts shall not appoint any other person as a guardian of minor if either of the parents is fit to be the guardian of such minor.

3. The bill seeks to achieve the above said purposes.

**SENATOR MOHSIN AZIZ**  
**Member-in-charge**