

**Table 1 Efforts to curb unethical practices related to organ transplantation in Pakistan and the processes pursued to attain this goal**

Year	Events
1979	Renal transplantation started in Pakistan in public sector hospitals using living related family donors
1990s	Renal transplantations exceeded 500 transplantations per year with first violations observed, whereby some hospitals shifted from dealing exclusively with living, related donor to unrelated, paid donors until these unethical practices accounted for more than 80% of all transplantations. Later in the decade transplantations exceeded 1000 per year. A transplantation bill was introduced by the Senate in 1992, based on ethical norms and conforming to World Health Organization (WHO) and International Transplantation Society guidelines, but the attempt was defeated by the then strong counter lobby.
2000s	Opposition to promulgating the law was sustained and commercial kidney transplantation flourished with over 1500 expatriates receiving locally procured kidneys. The Ministry of Health, supported by SIUT, media and civil society organizations, sustained its efforts to promote legislation and bring an end to these unethical practices. WHO provided the necessary technical support through its country, regional and headquarter institutions.
2004	A bill was tabled in the Pakistan Senate by a member raising the momentum for action. Subsequently, the subject was tabled as an agenda item in the Federal Cabinet.
2006	The organ transplantation agenda submitted to the Cabinet in 2004 was deferred in October 2006. This action ignited an active campaign, where informed and investigative media reports and SIUT's bold and challenging technical deliberations exposed the growing unethical lucrative kidney trade.
2007	Exploitative organ transplantation led to a judicial action in July 2007, whereby the Supreme Court of Pakistan took a suo moto notice advising the Government to promulgate the transplantation law.
2007	The transplantation ordinance was promulgated in September 2007 by the President of Pakistan.
2008	Attempts were made by the counter lobby through the Standing Committee for Health at the National Assembly to water down the law by introducing loopholes implicitly condoning organ sale and allowing expatriates to acquire kidneys for lucrative fees. These endeavours were rejected by the Standing Committees for Health and Human Rights.
2008	A case was filed before the Federal Shariat Court of Pakistan, challenging the law, whereby 12 hearing sessions were held in Islamabad, Lahore and Karachi, unanimously defeating all submitted objections and rendering all stipulated clauses of the law sustained, including the illegality of all forms of organ sale.
2009	On 23 June 2009, the Supreme Court took suo moto notice against private hospitals accused of violating the law and performing illegal transplantations, who when summoned by the court made commitments to comply with the law.
2009	On 12 November 2009, the National Assembly of Pakistan unanimously passed the bill on the recommendation of its Standing Committee on Health.
2010	On 10 February 2010, the Senate of Pakistan passed the bill.
2010	On 17 March 2010, the President of Pakistan signed the bill making it a law.