



# Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative

New Delhi, India. London, UK. Accra, Ghana

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NGO with Special Consultative Status with the Economic & Social Council of the United Nations

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**9.10.2019**

## **Launch of Maharashtra Police Complaints Authorities: A User Guide (English, Hindi and Marathi)**

The Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI) is pleased to invite you to the launch of the **Maharashtra Police Complaints Authorities: A User Guide** (English, Hindi and Marathi) on **11 October, 2019, from 2:30pm - 3:30 pm at Conference Hall, Mumbai Press Club, Glass House, Azad Maidan, Mahapalika Marg, Mumbai**. The User Guide in three languages will be launched by Javed Anand, Convenor – Indian Muslims for Secular Democracy and Human Rights Activist, Devika Prasad, Programme Head, Police Reforms Programme, CHRI, and Dolphy D'souza, Project Lead- Mumbai, CHRI.

Developed by CHRI in collaboration with civil society in Maharashtra, the User Guide provides information about what PCAs do, how they work, the type of complaints that can be made to them, the process to make complaints, the rights of the complainants and witnesses, and the remedies one can expect from them.

### **About the PCAs**

Maharashtra established Police Complaints Authorities (PCAs) in 2014. PCAs are independent bodies mandated to inquire into complaints by the public against police personnel of allegations of serious misconduct, corruption and abuse of authority. The state is to have one state-level PCA, and one in each of its six divisions (Nagpur, Nashik, Pune, Aurangabad, Amravati and Konkan). As of September 2019, only the state level PCA in Mumbai, and divisional level PCAs in Pune and Nashik, are operational. The State PCA can receive complaints against police officers of and above the rank of Deputy Superintendent or Assistant Commissioner of Police; while Divisional PCAs can receive complaints against police personnel to the rank of Senior Police Inspector.

The PCAs are meant to be accountability bodies that the public can expect to be responsive and fair. This User Guide is meant to inform the public about the mandate, powers and procedures of the PCA. The more people know about the PCAs, the more they can be pushed to fulfill their role as police accountability bodies. The User Guide is a resource to assist people to make the maximum use of PCAs.

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