

**Government of Pakistan**  
**Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Division**  
**Press Release**

## **Sania Nishtar on the list of BBC 100 Women 2020**

November 24, 2020 – Islamabad: The BBC has just revealed its list of 100 inspiring and influential women from around the world for 2020. This year 100 Women is highlighting those who are leading change and making a difference during these turbulent times. This is an absolute honour for Pakistan that this year's BBC list includes SAPM Dr. Sania Nishtar, who leads Ehsaas programme along with Sanna Marin, who leads Finland's all-female coalition government and Sarah Gilbert, who heads the Oxford University research into a coronavirus vaccine. The list can be accessed here: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-55042935>.

This distinction has been conferred upon Dr. Sania for her work and contribution in poverty alleviation, global health and development. "The dramatic impact of Covid-19 presents us with a once-in-a-generation chance to build a fairer world and bring an end to poverty, inequality and the climate crisis. For this, women must be equal, empowered stakeholders", said Dr. Sania.

Dr. Sania Nishtar is a leader in global health and sustainable development. Since 2018, she has been spearheading the transformative Ehsaas Poverty Alleviation programme, which has improved the livelihoods of millions of Pakistanis.

As Special Assistant to the Prime Minister of Pakistan on Poverty Alleviation and Social Protection, Dr. Sania has helped to empower the masses by taking the necessary first steps toward the development of a welfare state in Pakistan.

As part of the BBC's policy, the BBC 100 Women team drew up a shortlist of candidates who had made the headlines or influenced important stories over the past 12 months, as well as those who had inspiring stories to tell, achieved something significant or influenced their societies in ways that wouldn't necessarily make the news. The pool of names was then assessed against this year's theme - women who led change - and measured for regional representation and due impartiality, before the final names were chosen.