

Somaiyah Hafeez

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Finalist, **Young Journalist of the Year Award** 2024 by Thomson Foundation

EDUCATION

Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism, New York
M.S Data Journalism

Expected Aug. 2025

- **Reported** on the MTA's [fare-free bus service program](#) in Harlem, on a community-led fight against [artificial turf fields in Inwood](#) and [covered community board](#) meetings.
- Contributed to an election-year investigation with Columbia Journalism Review analyzing [Courier Newsroom's](#), a network of local news outlets, political ad spending using Meta Ad Library.
- Created **responsive data stories using Adobe Illustrator/ai2html** with data scraped using Python and analyzed on pandas about [missing persons in Balochistan](#) and changing funding priorities of [USAID](#).
- Developed **investigative and OSINT methodologies** in conflict reporting.

National University of Sciences and Technology, Islamabad, Pakistan

Sept. 2019-June 2023

BSc Physics

President's Gold Medal Award (CGPA: 3.71/4.00)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Freelance Journalist

May 2021-July 2024

- **Authored 50+ longform and feature stories** for major international and national news organizations including [The Guardian](#), [The Diplomat](#), [New Lines Magazine](#), [The New Humanitarian](#), and [Dawn](#).
- **Pitched, researched and wrote** clear and concise long form articles on the [2022 floods in Pakistan](#), [economic crisis](#), [enforced disappearances](#) in Balochistan province and the [resurgence of militancy](#) in the country, leveraging **news gathering skills and social media expertise** to verify information quickly.
- Interviewed subject-matter experts, politicians and affected communities to produce deeply reported, accessible stories about [refugees](#), [climate resilient housing](#), Pakistan's [transgender community](#) and [gender-based violence](#)
- Coordinated and arranged interviews as a fixer for a team of Dutch journalists working on a documentary about climate change and the political landscape in Pakistan.
- Worked in fast paced news environment with editors and turned in news copies quickly.

Media Fellow

Aug. 2023- Aug. 2024

Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development

- Produced 3 stories on militarism, peace and women's Human Rights from Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province in Pakistan as a media fellow for APWLD under their media and visual fellowship.

AWARDS

- Humanitarian Reporting Award 2023 by ICRC-CEJ
- Honorable Mention, Solutions Journalism Award 2024

LANGUAGES

Balochi (native), Urdu (fluent), English (fluent)

SKILLS

- **Analysis:** Python, Pandas, R, SQL, pandas, Excel
- **Reporting:** FOIA, OSINT, interviewing
- **Scraping:** BeautifulSoup, Playwright, Selenium
- **Visualization:** Data wrapper, ggplot, Flourish, Adobe Illustrator
- **Web:** GitHub, HTML/CSS