

JUSTICE SUCCESS STORY

LAS helps a mother to reunite with her minor child, after being tortured by her in-laws.

The Legal Aid Society (LAS), in collaboration with the Human Rights Department, Government of Sindh, provides free legal support to victims of human rights violations, including counseling and representation in a wide range of civil and criminal cases. This is another success story amongst many, where LAS had not only helped the vulnerable with their legal proceedings but also ensured delivery of justice to the aggrieved through rigorous follow-ups till the end of the process until the court would grant a favorable award.

Sonia Rajput, is a resident of Sanghar and a mother of a four-year-old child. Sonia moved to her husband's home in Shahdadpur after marriage, and her case was referred to LAS by WDD (Women's Development Department).

When Sonia approached the LAS office in Sanghar, she was violently battered by her husband and his family members (including her mother-in-law & brother-in-law). Her husband used an iron rod to assault her, pulled her hair out, tore her clothes, and forcefully removed her from the house. When being thrown from the house, her minor child was also aggressively snatched from Sonia. Following this, Sonia moved back to her father's house.

When Sonia discussed her issues with Advocate Housh Muhammad (LAS Field Advocate, Sanghar), she was advised to approach the Police immediately, file a complaint, and obtain a final Medical Legal Report (MLC). Since she had received injuries from her husband and his family's assault on her, Sonia followed that advice. She approached the Police station in Jhol and the Rural Health Center for a medical treatment letter.

The LAS advocate filed a complaint on behalf of Sonia under the Domestic violence Act 2013 before Judicial Magistrate Sanghar. Following this, Advocate Housh applied for the recovery of her minor son at the District Court Sanghar (Section 491 of Cr. Pc. Application). The Application was

transferred for disposal to the Additional Session Judge in Shahdadpur, where the minor was detained. The minor was produced before the Additional Sessions Judge in Shahdadpur, and custody of the minor was awarded to Sonia. Sonia's husband had also filed an application with Section 491, claiming that she was illegally apprehended at her father's house. The LAS advocate produced Sonia before the court voluntarily. The court recorded her statement, proving that she was not detained and residing at her father's house as per her own will. After hearing the statement, the Honorable Court ordered that Sonia was at liberty to reside wherever she chose.

Today Sonia is reunited with her child, and has opted for peace & sanity in her life by choosing to reside with her father. Sonia is seeking a Khula and maintenance from her husband. LAS is representing Sonia in both matters before the district court, where it has helped to successfully obtain an interim order of maintenance for the child of Rs. 4,000/ per month until the final resolution of the matter. While the domestic violence complaint is pending to date. Furthermore, as a result of timely interventions by LAS, Sonia was able to defend her family against false accusations.



Ms. Sonia Rajput after being reunited with her child