

JUSTICE SUCCESS STORY

LAS helps a deprived mother to receive maintenance for her children

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.

Ms. Sabeen Rasheed married her husband in 2003 with a Haq Mehar (Right of bride) of Rs. 3,000 (which still has not been paid). Sabeen has two children (aged 20 & 17) by wedlock. Sabeen's husband has been physically and emotionally abusive toward her since the early days of her marriage. Sabeen had also been thrown out of the house several times on meager issues.

Having completely lost hope and making up her mind to stop receiving further abuse, Sabeen finally left behind an abusive relationship in September 2019. Sabeen's older child resides with her, while the younger child resides with his father. Sabeen's husband, despite making Rs. 150,000 per month from his

employment plus other side ventures that he has failed to pay any maintenance for Sabeen along with his own son. Her husband claimed that Sabeen is a disobedient wife and has made false allegations against him. And for which, therefore, she is entitled to receive nothing (according to him).

Sabeen, being financially deprived and unable to afford a lawyer, was represented by Advocate Maryam Raza (Field Advocate, LAS), who filed a suit for maintenance against her husband. Following a contentious trial that included direct and cross-examination from both sides, the court announced a judgment in favor of Sabeen with a maintenance amount of Rs. 10,000 per month for sixteen months (from the date of separation till her iddat period). The court also ordered Sabeen's husband to pay retroactive maintenance of Rs. 25,000 for 13 months for her older child from the date Sabeen left her husband's house to the date the child turned 18.

Sabeen now has some financial resources to take care of her child in custody, as she is working to gain financial independence and is taking care of her son simultaneously.



Advocate Maryam Raza (Field Advocate, LAS), with Ms. Sabeen while discussing her case in the court

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