

JUSTICE SUCCESS STORY

LAS helps quick processing in a heinous case and benefits a minor in attaining justice

The Legal Aid Society (LAS) since its inception has continued to protect the victims & survivors of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) through the provision of free legal assistance to the aggrieved, especially to those belonging to marginalized communities. LAS focuses its legal interventions on socio-economically impoverished persons, vulnerable groups, women, children, aged persons, and transgender individuals.

Sexual violence and rape are heinous crimes that warrant the most serious consideration, especially when the survivors await years on court benches. This haunting process of delayed justice becomes even worse when it involves a minor. In a similar case, Nida* (a 9-year-old child) had to suffer excessively along with her family.

Nida was earlier raped by her father. Nida (at such a young age) and her family were going through a long and challenging journey to attain justice, which traumatized her and her family. After two years of

going back and forth with case proceedings, Nida's family had almost lost their hopes of attaining justice until they connected with **Advocate Bahzad Akbar** (Community Lawyer, LAS). Taking immediate steps to help the distressed, Advocate Bahzad collected all evidence to bring a strong case forward to the court with utmost dedication to get justice for Nida. The case was heard in court, and the evidence against the accused was presented. Following the hearing, the honorable court charged the accused with section 265(2) of the Criminal Procedure Code for the offense of rape punishable under Section 376/511 of the Indian Penal Code. Justice finally prevailed when the accused was convicted. This was a significant victory for Nida and her family, who had been traumatized for so long and had lost all hope.

The sentence handed down to the accused also served as a deterrent to others who might consider committing such heinous acts, and it provided a sense of justice and closure to the survivor and her family.

*Pseudo name used to protect survivor's dignity



Advocate Bahzad Akbar (Community Lawyer, LAS) - on the right; discussing evidence with the Police before the hearing at the Karachi High Court