

# NEWSLETTER



OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2025

33RD EDITION

ACCESS TO JUSTICE ACROSS PAKISTAN



## From the CEO's Desk



“ Sometimes the hurdles that stand between a survivor and justice feel heavier than the injustice itself. The silence, the stigma, the fear of being unheard often make the path to justice more overwhelming than the legal process itself. When we first considered opening our doors for support, we too hesitated. Would this mission be understood? Would people stand with those who carry invisible wounds? Yet we took a chance, and your response became the light that guided us forward.

This past quarter marked a meaningful turning point for the Legal Aid Society. Your generous support for our litigation work reminded us that justice cannot and should not stand alone. Through Naqsh e Adal, an evening shaped entirely by our community, you offered not just contributions but your trust, your homes, and your networks. Together, we mobilized support for over 300 legal cases, with more commitments now underway. For a cause often seen as distant or complex, this collective action reaffirmed how deeply justice resonates when people are invited into its purpose.

Our engagement with the corporate sector also grew stronger this quarter. Support from Bank Alfalah, Crescent Steel, Allied Products and Ismail Global further anchored our litigation and legal empowerment work, demonstrating that corporate social responsibility in Pakistan can meaningfully advance access to justice. These partnerships reflect a growing belief that justice is a shared responsibility.

We expanded and opened two Justice Hubs in Hyderabad and Sanghar, bringing legal aid closer to communities long deprived of it. These hubs were inaugurated by the Deputy Commissioner Sanghar and Chief Commissioner Hyderabad, reinforcing a vital message: legal aid exists and it is meant to be used. Our collaboration further deepened with the Government of Sindh, particularly through the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities and the Law and Justice Department. We are grateful to the Government of Sindh for its continued support in expanding access to justice services across the province, including support for the expansion of Justice Hubs in Sindh. This support has proven to be a lifeline for underserved communities and has laid a strong foundation for an enduring journey toward accessible justice in Sindh.

Our work this quarter also extended to the digital rights space. On 10 December 2025, marking Human Rights Day and the close of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence, we hosted “H.E.R. Digital Shield” in partnership with the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Islamabad. The event was graced by His Excellency Per Albert Ilsaas and Honorable Secretary Ministry of Human Rights Mr. Khalid Sheikh.

Much has been achieved on the programmatic and reform fronts this quarter, yet one truth remains constant; none of this progresses without shared belief. Our community continues to remind us why this work matters. As one beneficiary shared, *“I wouldn't have survived without this legal support. This gave me and my family a chance to live with dignity.”*

*We're grateful for the role you played in this moment.*

*This work moves forward because of supporters like you.*



**Haya Emaan Zahid**

Chief Executive Officer & Co-founder, Legal Aid Society

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# Program Summary

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Quarterly Program Overview | October–December 2025

## Delivering Justice Where It Matters Most

During the final quarter of 2025, the Legal Aid Society (LAS) focused on translating legal rights into real protection for communities facing systemic exclusion. Across litigation, justice reform, community protection, and partnerships, our work reflected a shift from isolated legal aid to sustained, system-level impact.

### Access to Justice

LAS had **435 active litigation cases** during the quarter, including **156** new filings and 102 cases disposed of, achieving a **78%** success rate in matters decided. The majority of clients were women, highlighting both the prevalence of gendered harm and growing trust in legal remedies. Cases extended beyond Karachi into interior Sindh, strengthening access in underserved districts. In parallel, the Sindh Legal Advisory Call Center (SLACC) addressed over **16,000 legal queries**, while the NAZ Assist chatbot expanded digital legal guidance nationwide. Insights from these services contributed directly to policy action, including government measures to strengthen disability inclusion.

### Gender & Child Security

LAS strengthened survivor-centered responses to sexual and gender-based violence across Sindh, Punjab, ICT, Balochistan, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Through multisectoral trainings and judicial capacity-building, institutions advanced implementation of the Anti-Rape Act, Anti-Rape Crisis Cells, and trauma-informed adjudication. Addressing emerging risks, LAS advanced national action on technology-facilitated gender-based violence through research, policy dialogue, digital literacy, and advocacy during the 16 Days of Activism. Complementary efforts on child marriage prevention strengthened enforcement, oversight, and institutional coordination.

### Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB)

To strengthen protection for religious minority communities, LAS conducted district-level sensitization sessions across Sindh, engaging 125 stakeholders from government, justice sector, civil society, and minority leadership. These interventions strengthened early-warning mechanisms, referral pathways, and sustained coordination through newly formed multi-stakeholder working groups.

### Partnerships & Collective Action

Strategic partnerships with the Government of Sindh, corporate allies, and community supporters expanded legal aid, financial literacy, and digital empowerment initiatives. The inaugural Naqsh-e-Adal convening mobilized support for 300+ legal cases, reinforcing justice as a shared responsibility.

### Human Impact

These outcomes reflect only a few of the many lives changed through LAS's work—survivors protected from violence, children safeguarded from harm, families kept intact, and dignity restored. Behind every case and training lies a human story, with many more lives protected quietly through timely legal intervention.

# Access to Justice

## Spotlight: Litigation Progress | October – December

📅 October–December 2025 | 📍 Sindh

From October to December, the Litigation Team continued its commitment to ensuring access to justice for marginalized and vulnerable communities across Sindh. During this period, the team handled a significant caseload, reflecting both the growing demand for legal aid services and the trust placed in the organization by survivors and communities.

### Case Filings and Outcomes

Key Outcomes (Oct–Dec 2025)



Out of the cases disposed:



### Referral Pathways

Cases reached the Legal Aid Society through multiple channels, demonstrating strong community outreach and institutional collaboration:



These referral patterns reflect the organization’s integrated approach to legal aid delivery and its expanding network.

## Gender Representation

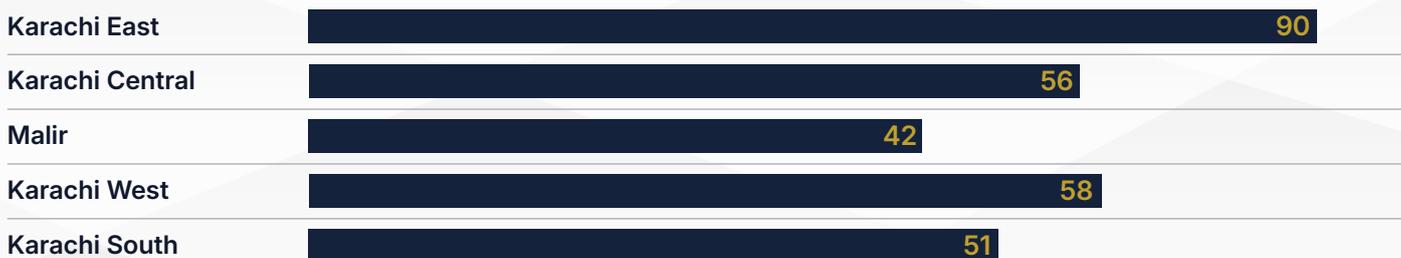
The overwhelming majority of clients served were women:



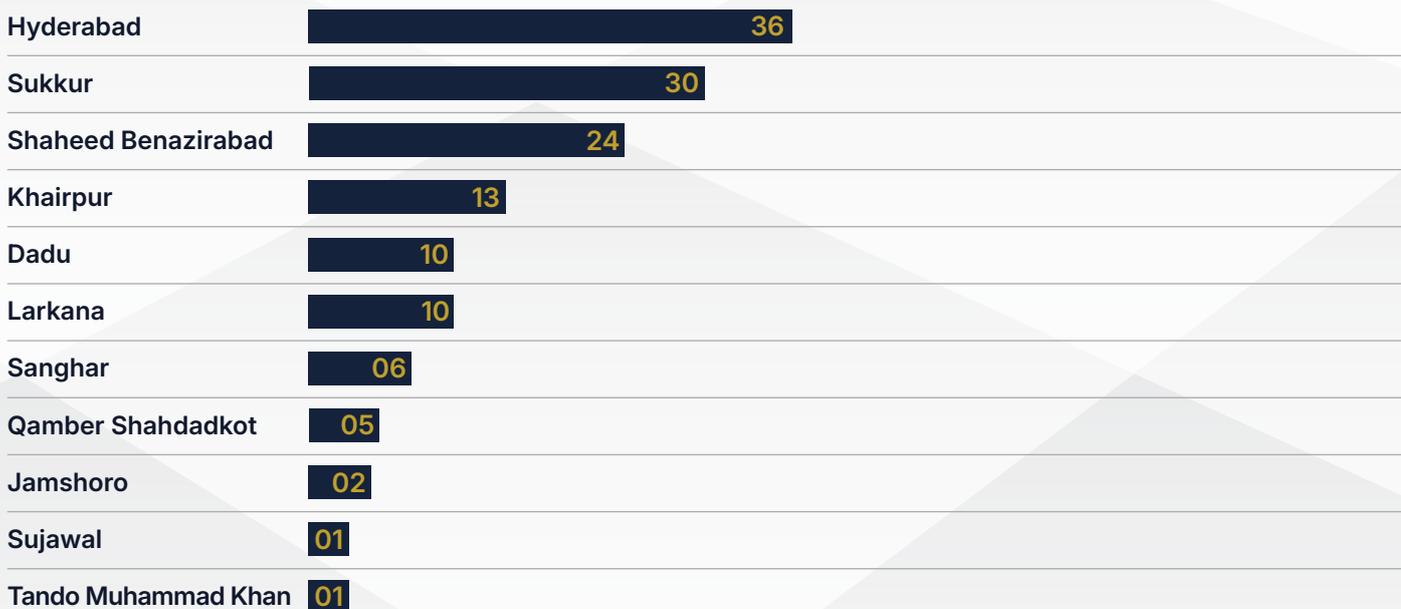
This data underscores the critical need for legal protection and advocacy for women, particularly in cases involving gender-based violence and family law.

## District-Wise Case Distribution

Cases were reported from multiple districts across Sindh, with the highest number from Karachi:



Other districts included:



This geographical spread highlights the organization's reach beyond urban centers into interior Sindh.

## Religion of Clients



The Litigation Team remains committed to providing non-discriminatory legal assistance, ensuring equal access to justice for all communities.

## Nature of Cases Filed

The case trends below show that Legal Aid Society is largely responding to gender-based and family-related human rights violations, particularly sexual violence, domestic abuse, and marriage and custody disputes. Overall, this reflects persistent structural inequalities and an expanding human rights crisis affecting women and families across multiple dimensions.

The most frequently reported cases included:



## Moving Forward

October–December period spotlights the Litigation Team’s continued dedication to legal empowerment, survivor-centered representation, and accountability within the justice system. As cases progress into the next quarter, the Legal Aid Society remains steadfast in its mission to protect rights, amplify voices, and pursue justice for those most in need.



# AAWAZ II - Inclusion, Accountability, and Reducing Involuntary Servitude

## Promoting Peace and Inclusion: Training on Conflict Sensitivity and Minority Rights

📅 14–16 October 2025 | 📍 Hyderabad

From 14th to 16th October 2025, LAS organized a three-day training in Hyderabad on Conflict Sensitivity, Pre-emption, Resolution, Mediation, and Minority Rights for Aawaz II implementing partners and Aawaz Agahi Center staff from Sindh. The sessions were attended by participants from diverse backgrounds, with representation from both men and women.

The training aimed to equip participants with the knowledge and skills to identify and pre-empt conflicts, promote peaceful resolution, and safeguard the rights of minority groups. Participants strengthened their understanding of



Conflict Sensitivity



Pre-emption



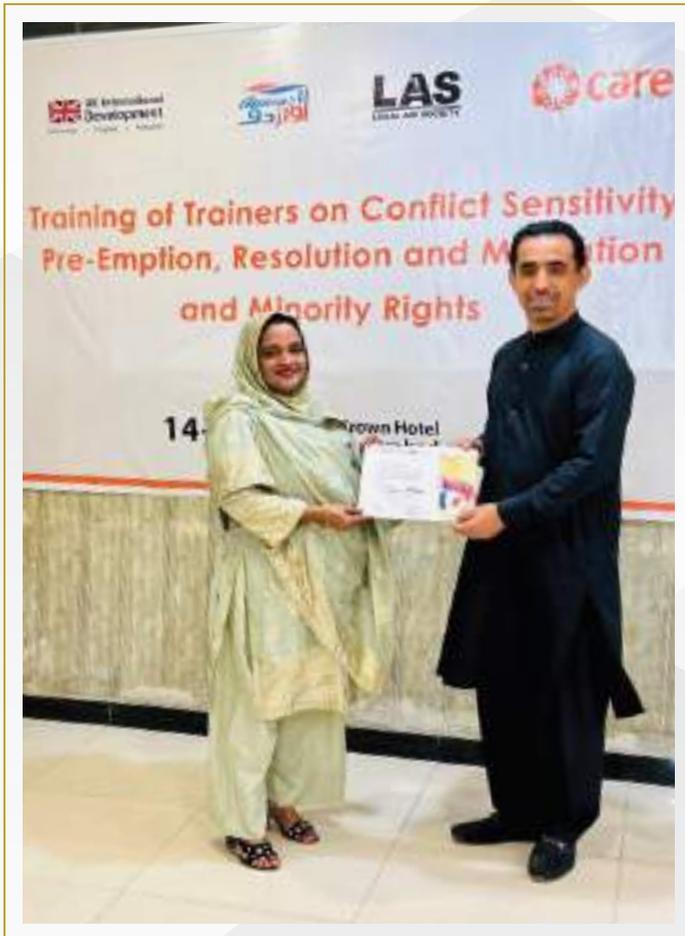
Resolution



Mediation



Minority Rights



# Training Change Makers to End Child Labor, Violence, and Trafficking for a Safer Sindh

📅 23–25 October 2025 | 📍 Hyderabad

A three-day Training of Trainers (ToT) was organized (October 23 - 25) in Hyderabad on Child Labor, Domestic Violence, and Human Trafficking for Aawaz II implementing partners in Sindh.

The training brought together participants from diverse backgrounds, including men, women, transgender persons, and individuals from minority and differently-abled communities.

## Participants Overview



The training aimed to develop a cadre of trainers equipped to raise awareness and respond effectively to key social protection challenges. Through a combination of legal learning and practical engagement, participants were prepared to deliver localized awareness sessions and support safer, more inclusive communities across Sindh.



Child Labor



Domestic Violence



Human Trafficking



Legal Frameworks



Referral Mechanisms

## Key Quote:

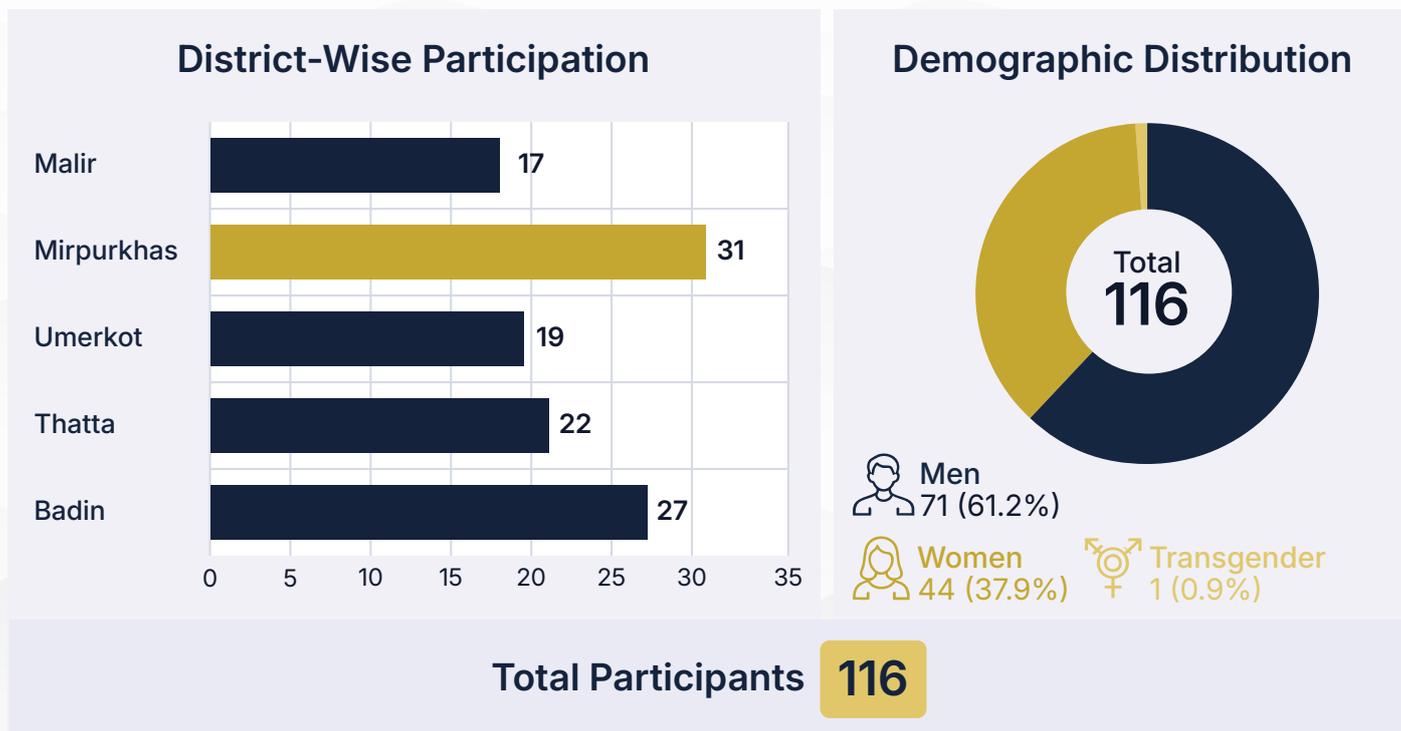
*“Trainings like this should be held in every district of Sindh. They are essential to ending modern-day slavery and exploitation. When people from all communities including transgender and marginalized groups are empowered with knowledge, they become powerful advocates for justice and equality. This is how we can build a Sindh where every individual lives with dignity and freedom.”*

– Transgender Participant, Aawaz II Training, Hyderabad



# Early Warning System: Validation Workshops to Strengthen Community Protection in Sindh

Dates, Districts and Participants:



Validation Workshops were conducted in Malir, Mirpurkhas, Umerkot, Thatta, and Badin under the Aawaz II Programme to validate a community-led Early Warning System (EWS) addressing child marriage, child labour, gender-based violence, human trafficking, and minority issues. The workshops brought together government officials, implementing partners, Aawaz Aagahi Centres, village and district forum members, civil society, media, and minority representatives. The consultations validated the EWS model, highlighted key protection gaps, and generated practical recommendations to strengthen reporting, referrals, confidentiality, and coordination, reinforcing community ownership and institutional linkages for timely prevention and response.



# Community-to-Policy Dialogue: Strengthening Upward Participation

📅 20 November 2025 | 📍 Karachi

LAS under the Aawaz II Programme, funded by CARE International with support from FCDO formed the “Aawaz II Provincial Forum, Sindh” on 20th November 2025 in Karachi. The Aawaz II Provincial Forum, Sindh is a structured, non-duplicative, participatory platform at the provincial level that connects community voices to policy makers, enabling provincial policies, reforms, and interventions to be grounded in lived realities and actionable insights from Aawaz II communities.

## Forum Focus Areas



Child & Forced Marriages



Gender-Based Violence



Human Trafficking



Minority Exclusion



Disability Inclusion



Social Cohesion

Discussions highlighted persistent systemic gaps, such as weak enforcement, fragmented coordination, and limited prevention mechanisms, while advancing practical, time-bound provincial actions including age-verification protocols, early-warning systems for school dropouts, and strengthened accountability of frontline actors.

A key strategic strength of the Forum lies in its diverse and high-impact participation and membership. The platform brings together provincial government departments, statutory bodies, legislators, civil society leaders, and representatives of minorities, persons with disabilities, and the transgender community. This inclusive composition ensures that policy dialogue is informed by lived realities, while also enabling direct pathways to reform and implementation.



# MICADR: Strengthening Pakistan's Alternate Dispute Resolution Infrastructure

**Quarterly Highlights** | Legal Aid Society & Musaliha International Center for Arbitration and Dispute Resolution (MICADR)

During the quarter, the Legal Aid Society (LAS), in collaboration with the Musaliha International Center for Arbitration and Dispute Resolution (MICADR), continued to strengthen Pakistan's Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) ecosystem through judicial capacity-building, engagement with the legal profession, and corporate outreach. These initiatives reflect a shared commitment to promoting faster, fairer, and more humane pathways to justice.

## IMI-Accredited Mediation Skills Training

📅 21–25 October 2025 | 📍 Sindh Judicial Academy

📅 2–6 December 2025 | 📍 Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Judicial Academy

LAS and MICADR delivered IMI-Accredited 40-Hour Mediation Skills Trainings for senior judiciary across Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

At the Sindh Judicial Academy, 24 Senior Civil Judges nominated by the Sindh High Court participated in a five-day, practice-based training focused on conflict analysis, emotional intelligence, structured mediation, and principled neutrality. The training was delivered by an experienced faculty of internationally accredited mediators—Mr. Sohail Khoja, Ms. Fehmida Ajanee, Mr. Muhammad Shahzar Ilahi, and Ms. Sarha Rasheed. The closing ceremony was attended by Justice (R) Ather Saeed, Justice Abdur Rahman (Supreme Court ADR Task Force), and Barrister Haya Zahid, CEO LAS. Post-training assessments recorded an average 143% increase in participant knowledge, reinforcing the effectiveness of MICADR's internationally benchmarked training design.

**40**

hour IMI-accredited training

**24**

judges trained (Sindh)

**23**

judges trained (KP)

**47**

total judges trained

**143%**

average knowledge increase

This was followed by a second IMI-Accredited training at the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Judicial Academy in Peshawar, engaging 23 Senior Civil Judges. The training included a guest session by Mr. Sultan Mazhar Sher, Advocate Supreme Court, tracing mediation's historical and cultural foundations. Participants demonstrated strong alignment with dialogue-driven dispute resolution and shared early success stories of resolving long-pending disputes upon returning to their courts.

Total judges trained under IMI-accredited programmes during the quarter: 47



# Alternate Dispute Resolution Awareness Session

📅 10 November 2025 | 📍 Islamabad High Court Bar Association

📅 20 November 2025 | 📍 Overseas Investors Chamber of Commerce & Industry (OICCI)

LAS/MICADR expanded ADR awareness among the legal fraternity and corporate stakeholders through targeted sessions in Islamabad.

At the Islamabad High Court Bar Association, an ADR awareness session organized by Ms. Furrah Kashif featured Mr. Shahid Akhtar, CEO of Conciliators Without Borders (Canada). The session introduced the 7Cs Compass Framework Conciliation, Commitment, Compassion, Communication, Concentration, Compromise, and Culmination highlighting mediation’s relevance in addressing Pakistan’s chronic case backlog. Senior lawyers and mediators reaffirmed the need to mainstream mediation as a credible, court-aligned dispute resolution mechanism.

This was complemented by an ADR awareness session for the corporate sector hosted by the Overseas Investors Chamber of Commerce & Industry (OICCI). The session engaged professionals from banking, energy, FMCGs, pharmaceuticals, and manufacturing, exploring mediation fundamentals, interest-based negotiation, trust-building, and confidential dispute resolution for workplace and commercial conflicts. The 7Cs Compass Framework served as a practical guide throughout the discussion.



# Mediation Advocacy Skills Training (M-MAST)

📅 29 November 2025 | 📍 Islamabad

📅 13 December 2025 | 📍 Karachi

To strengthen mediation advocacy within the legal profession, LAS/MICADR conducted Mediation Advocacy Skills Trainings (M-MAST) in Islamabad and Karachi.

In Islamabad, a one-day training led by Mr. Muhammad Shahzar Ilahi trained 39 legal professionals, focusing on mediation's efficiency, cost-effectiveness, and role in preserving relationships while supporting structured settlement processes.

This was followed by an M-MAST session in Karachi, hosted at the MOK School of Law and led by Ms. Sarha Rasheed, engaging 20–21 law students and legal professionals. The session emphasized client-centered mediation advocacy and strengthening court-referral systems.

Total mediation advocates trained during the quarter: approximately 60



# Sindh Legal Advisory Call Centre (SLACC)

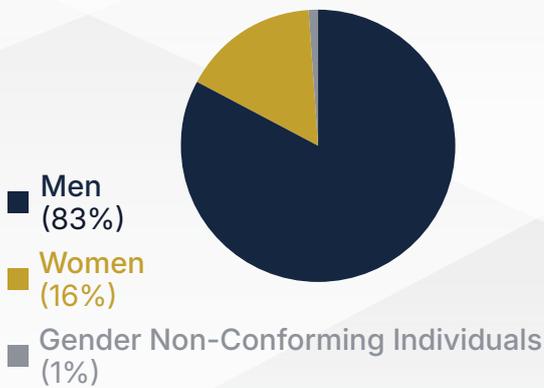
📅 October–December 2025 | 📍 Sindh (Province-wide)

The Sindh Legal Advisory Call Center (SLACC) is a flagship project of the Legal Aid Society (LAS) and the Government of Sindh (GoS). SLACC is Pakistan’s first and one-of-a-kind toll-free helpline, which through its Interactive Voice Recording (IVR) system has amassed an impressive record of

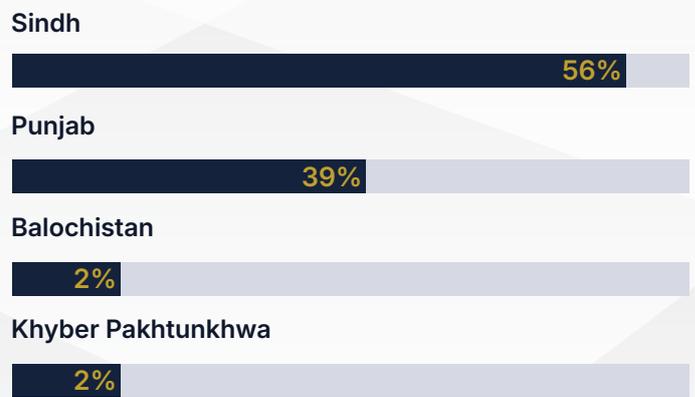


These queries are appropriately addressed by High Court enrolled Agent Lawyers and Callers are provided conclusive guidance.

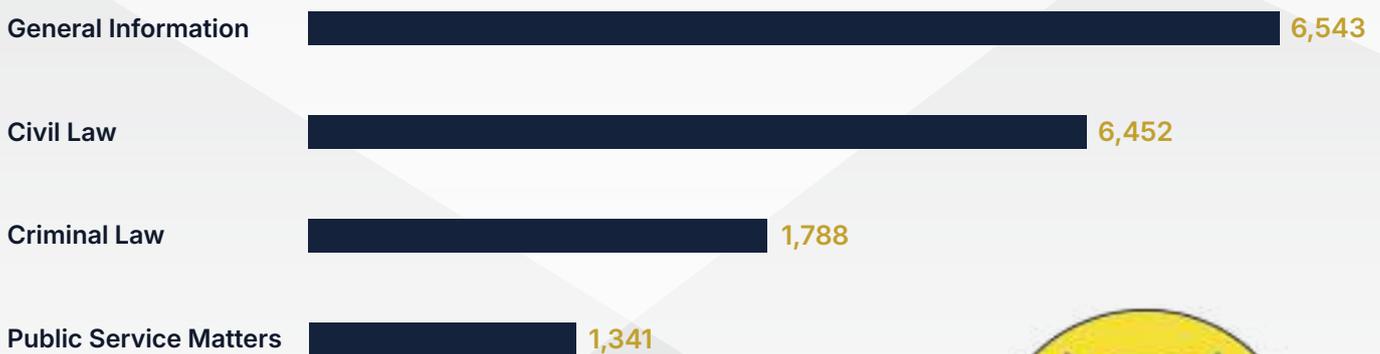
## Caller Gender Breakdown



## Geographic Distribution

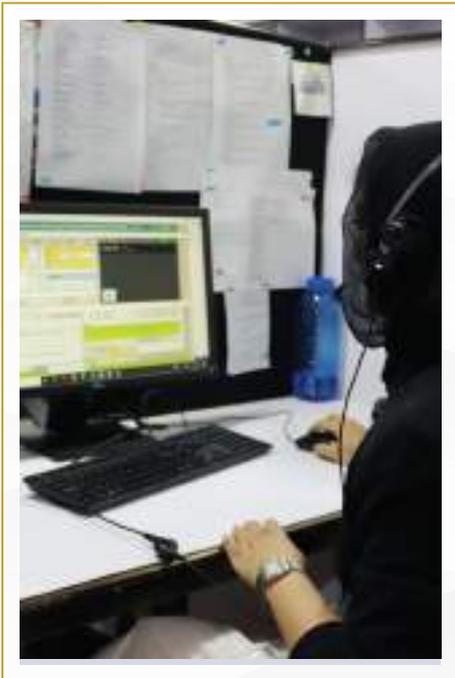


## Queries by Area of Law



Since NAZ Assist was launched publicly on the 1st of October, more than 11,606 people have used the free-of-cost multi-lingual legal advisory chatbot. Over 1748 users requested a callback by providing their contact details through the chatbot.





## Success Stories

### Police Misconduct & Land Dispute Case

Case Managed by Advocate Faheem Ahmed

**Legal Matter:** The Caller reported that an individual attempted to illegally occupy his agricultural land and cut down trees. When the Caller contacted the police by calling 15, police officials demanded a bribe to register an FIR. Due to this police misconduct, the Caller sought legal guidance from SLACC.

**Legal Advice:** The Caller was advised to file a formal complaint with the Inspector General (IG) Punjab through the official helpline 1787. He was informed that the IG has the authority to take departmental action against police officials and to order the registration of an FIR under the relevant law.

**Outcome:** On 20 October 2025, the Caller reported a positive outcome. Following SLACC's advice, he submitted a complaint to the IG Punjab, after which the FIR was registered on the IG's direction. A Patwari's report was also submitted in the Caller's favour, confirming his ownership and the incident. The matter is now proceeding before the DPO, and the challan is expected to be submitted in court on the next hearing.



## Research to Action: "Towards Inclusion" A Policy Brief on Disability

The Legal Aid Society's (LAS) policy brief Towards Inclusion; on disability laws and implementation, grounded in data and insights drawn from calls received at the Sindh Legal Advisory Call Center (SLACC) has led to concrete government action. The brief received formal acknowledgement from the Office of the President of Pakistan and the Chief Secretary of Sindh.

As a result, the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPD) issued a notification establishing a committee to work on the policy recommendations outlined in the brief. Subsequently, representatives from NOWPDP, KDSP, and LAS met with the Director General of the Sindh Persons with Disabilities Protection Authority (SPDPA), where the CEO of LAS shared the background, research context, and key findings of the policy brief.

This progress highlights the real-world impact of LAS's research and advocacy, demonstrating how evidence generated through SLACC translates into meaningful policy reform for advancing disability rights.



Three documents related to the 'Towards Inclusion' policy brief are displayed. The first is a notification from the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPD) regarding the formation of a committee. The second is the cover of the policy brief 'Towards Inclusion: Addressing Implementation Gaps in Disability Laws Sindh - 2025', featuring silhouettes of people with disabilities. The third is a flyer for the Sindh Legal Advisory Call Center (SLACC) and the Legal Aid Society (LAS), providing contact information for free legal advice and a QR code for the NAZ ASSIST service.

## Strengthening Accountability Through Collaboration

The SLACC team held a productive meeting with Mr. Imdad Siddique, Director Coordination at the Ombudsperson's Office, during which team presented its quarterly progress report. Mr. Siddique shared that the Ombudsperson's Office has developed a Complaint Management System (CMS), which has recently been piloted and is scheduled for official launch in January.

The Ombudsperson's Office sought LAS's support in promoting the CMS through SMS outreach and community engagement sessions. Additionally, discussions explored the potential future integration of the CMS with the Sindh Legal Advisory Call Center (SLACC), which would enable SLACC lawyers to directly file or refer complaints through the system. This collaboration reflects a shared commitment to improving access to justice and strengthening complaint redressal mechanisms.



## TV Channels

### Sindh TV

Sindh TV is a leading Sindhi-language channel known for its cultural programming, talk shows, and regional news coverage, making it a trusted platform across Sindh. SLACC collaborated with Sindh TV. Our lawyers appeared on their morning shows and awareness-based programs, where they discussed legal rights, shared guidance, and promoted the services of the Sindh Legal Advisory Call Center to a wide and diverse audience..



## Awaz TV

Awaz TV is a well-established regional channel recognized for its community-focused content, talk shows, and strong connection with local Sindhi viewers. Through our collaboration, SLACC lawyers appeared on Awaz TV's informative segments and morning shows to raise legal awareness, educate the public, and introduce SLACC's free legal advisory services to grassroots communities across the province.



## Digital Media



### Proud of Pakistan

Proud of Pakistan is a well-known digital media platform with a strong nationwide audience, recognized for promoting positive social stories and initiatives. SLACC collaborated with them for an awareness segment that helped highlight our services and boosted our visibility across Pakistan. The awareness segment achieved 19k views, contributing to increased visibility and outreach.access to justice and strengthening complaint redressal mechanisms.



### Pakistan Kay Saath

Pakistan Kay Saath is a popular digital platform focused on informative, socially impactful content. Through our collaboration, an awareness video on their channel achieved excellent reach, helping spread SLACC's message to audiences across the country. The collaborative awareness video achieved a reach of 1.2 million views, significantly amplifying SLACC's message nationwide.

## Indus Family Festival by Sindh TV

SLACC participated in the three-day Indus Family Festival organized by Sindh TV by setting up an information and awareness stall. Throughout the festival, the stall received visits from hundreds of attendees each day, resulting in engagement with a large and diverse audience. Thousands of informational brochures were distributed during the event, providing visitors with detailed guidance on SLACC's services and support mechanisms. The activity generated strong public interest and meaningful interaction, significantly contributing to increased awareness of SLACC's role in providing free legal assistance and advisory services to the community.



# Gender & Child Security

## Strengthening Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Response Across Pakistan

During the last quarter of 2025, the Legal Aid Society (LAS) advanced its Gender-Based Violence (GBV) programme through a series of coordinated trainings, consultations, and national and provincial forums, aimed at strengthening survivor-centered justice systems across Sindh, Punjab, Islamabad Capital Territory, Balochistan, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The interventions focused on translating law into practice, strengthening institutional coordination, and responding to emerging forms of harm, including technology-facilitated gender-based violence (TFGBV).

### Capacity Building and Justice Sector Trainings

(Investigation and Trial) Act, 2021 through multisectoral capacity-building.

In Sindh, LAS, in partnership with the Sindh Judicial Academy and with support from UNFPA, conducted a two-day multisectoral training (20–21 October 2025) for police, prosecutors, and medico-legal officers. The training enhanced understanding of survivor-centered investigations, evidence handling, and inter-agency coordination, recording an 18% increase in post-training knowledge.

This was followed by a two-day training on operationalizing Anti-Rape Crisis Cells (23–24 October 2025), bringing together police, health, prosecution, shelter, and legal aid actors. The training emphasized trauma-informed care, referral pathways, and medico-legal documentation, resulting in a 13% increase in participant knowledge and improved readiness for coordinated response.

To strengthen institutional training capacity, LAS conducted a three-day Training of Trainers on survivor-sensitive interviewing in SGBV cases (27–29 October 2025, Karachi) under the Open Society Foundation project. Eighteen LAS trainers and criminal justice actors were trained by UK-based experts using interactive methodologies, including role plays, scenario exercises, and the UK Achieving Best Evidence (ABE) approach.

Judicial capacity was further strengthened through a two-day online training for specialized GBV judges (30–31 October 2025). Nineteen judges engaged in sessions on trauma and testimony, unconscious bias, managing cross-examinations, and creating victim-centric courtrooms, reinforcing survivor-centered adjudication practices within Pakistan's legal framework.



# Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence: Research, Dialogue, and National Action

📅 November–December 2025 | 📍 Sindh & Islamabad

Responding to the growing risks of digital violence, LAS advanced its TFGBV work through research, policy engagement, and national convenings.

In Sindh, LAS developed a policy brief on Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence, informed by interviews with police, prosecutors, and the National Cyber Crimes Investigation Agency (NCCIA). To validate findings, a provincial roundtable was convened on 12 December 2025, bringing together 35 participants from government, civil society, legal experts, regulators, and cyber security professionals. The session, opened by DIG Crime and Investigation Aamir Faruqui, focused on strengthening coordination and advancing policy pathways for safer digital spaces.

At the national level, LAS convened a high-level launch of the TFGBV study in Islamabad (10 November 2025), engaging over 70 stakeholders from government, law enforcement, academia, media, and civil society. Supported by UNFPA Pakistan, UK Aid, and FCDO, the dialogue reinforced multi-sector commitment to survivor-centered digital safety and legal reform.

This was complemented by a three-day national TFGBV training (11–13 November 2025, Islamabad), bringing together professionals from Punjab, KP, Balochistan, and ICT. Participants explored PECA 2016 remedies, digital evidence handling, survivor engagement, and accessibility considerations, generating actionable recommendations to integrate TFGBV response into institutional SOPs.

An additional orientation session on TFGBV (24 December 2025, Islamabad) engaged government departments and civil society organizations in ICT, addressing coordination gaps and concluding with commitments to strengthen referral mechanisms and preventive awareness initiatives.



# Child Marriage Prevention and Family Law Reform

📅 October–December 2025 | 📍 Sindh

Alongside SGBV response, LAS provided technical support for institutional strengthening and legislative advocacy on child marriage prevention in Sindh.

A consultation with the National Commission on the Status of Women (30 October 2025, Sindh Judicial Academy) engaged judges, lawyers, police, and prosecutors to review implementation gaps in the Sindh Child Marriage Restraint Act, 2013. Key challenges identified included coordination failures, age verification, and case handling, with consensus on digitization and institutional training.

LAS also convened a consultation at the Local Government Tandojam Training Academy (13 November 2025) to review and institutionalize the LAS child marriage prevention curriculum, which was formally endorsed for integration into future government trainings.

## Key Outcomes (Oct–Dec 2025)



92

Nikah Registrars trained



14%

increase in knowledge & confidence



Province-wide engagement (Hyderabad, Badin, Thatta)

Capacity-building continued through two-day trainings for 92 Nikah Registrars (12–13 November & 1–4 December 2025) in Hyderabad, Badin, and Thatta, strengthening understanding of child marriage laws and enforcement responsibilities. This was followed by a provincial roundtable with the Local Government Department (18 December 2025) to finalize oversight mechanisms for marriage registration, including flagging under-18 unions and strengthening interdepartmental coordination.

Additionally, a five-day Training of Trainers on child marriage prevention and marriage registration (13–17 October 2025) was delivered to LAS and Local Government Department staff, resulting in a 14% increase in participant knowledge and confidence.



## Strengthening Provincial and National Sexual and Gender Based Violence Systems

📅 May–November 2025 | 📍 Punjab, ICT, Balochistan & Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Beyond Sindh, LAS advanced SGBV systems strengthening across other provinces.

In Punjab and Islamabad Capital Territory, LAS convened a national consultation on ARCC Guidelines at Serena Business Complex, Islamabad, in collaboration with the Ministry of Law and Justice and with technical support from UNFPA. The consultation addressed operational and medico-legal bottlenecks and strengthened national consensus on institutionalizing ARCCs.

In Balochistan, LAS led structured consultations to develop the Balochistan Sexual Violence Response Framework (BSVRF), identifying systemic gaps and building institutional ownership. This was complemented by a three-day multisectoral SGBV training (3–5 November 2025, Quetta) for investigators, prosecutors, and medico-legal officers.

In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, LAS delivered a three-day multisectoral training on GBV and the Anti-Rape Act (27–29 May 2025, KP Judicial Academy) and convened a two-day consultation on operationalizing the ARCC at Khyber Teaching Hospital (27–28 November 2025), advancing survivor-centered service delivery and inter-agency coordination.



# 16 Days of Activism

## Digital Literacy Session

📅 10 December 2025 | 📍 Islamabad

As part of the 16 Days of Activism, we held a digital literacy session in Dadu (December 10 2025) to help participants build safer online habits. The session covered practical steps for safe smartphone use, social media awareness, and how to recognize online harassment, cyberbullying, and misinformation. Field Officer Aftab Hussain Bhutto facilitated an interactive discussion, sharing simple tools participants can use to protect their privacy and report incidents when needed. The session supported community members (especially women) to use digital spaces more confidently and safely.

Participant quote:

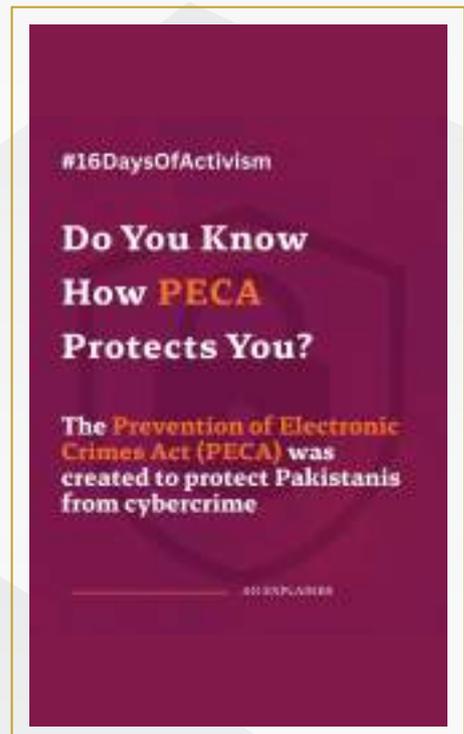
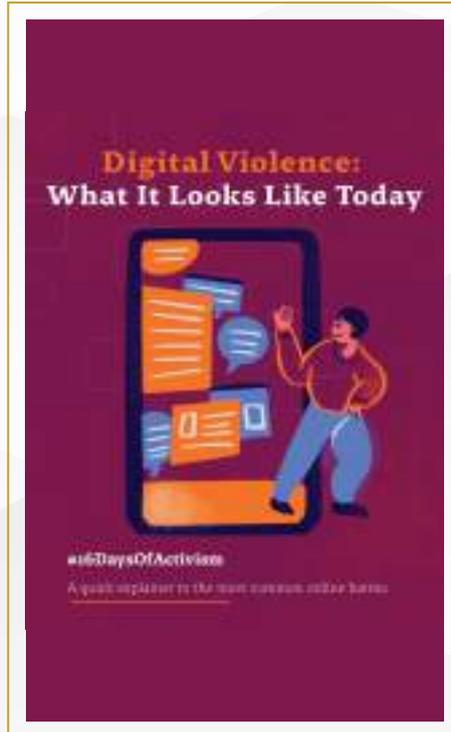
*“A little guidance can change how we use the internet. Now I feel safer and more aware.”*



# Social Media Campaign on Technology Facilitated Gender Based Violence

During the 16 Days of Activism 2025, a targeted social media campaign was launched to educate digital audiences on Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence (TFGBV). The campaign highlighted causes of digital abuse, preventive measures, and safe reporting mechanisms, reaching youth, women, and gender-sensitive online communities across Pakistan.

Through infographics, short videos, interactive posts, and awareness threads, the campaign emphasized survivor-centered approaches, legal remedies under PECA 2016, and tips for safe online engagement. Engagement metrics showed high participation and knowledge uptake, fostering wider awareness and promoting responsible digital behavior, while reinforcing collective action against online gender-based violence.



## H.E.R. Digital Shield: Strengthening Digital Safety for Women

📅 10 December 2025 | 📍 Islamabad

Marking International Human Rights Day, a high-visibility event brought renewed focus to the impact of digital violence on women. Panel discussions explored legal accountability, investigative challenges, and technology-driven solutions to online harm. Hosted by LAS in partnership with the **Royal Norwegian Embassy**, the event closed **16 Days of Activism** with a strong call for collective action on technology-facilitated gender-based violence. The event was graced by His Excellency Per Albert Ilsaas and Honorable Secretary Ministry of Human Rights Mr. Khalid Sheikh.



# Freedom of Religious Belief

## Protecting & Promoting Religious Freedom: Strengthening District Coordination for Religious Minority Protection

This quarter we delivered sensitization sessions in Sukkur, Khairpur, Dadu, and Hyderabad to strengthen district-level prevention and response for incidents affecting Religious Minority Communities

**125 stakeholders** participated including:



Police & Prosecutors



District Peace Committees



Government Representatives



Civil Society & Lawyers



Minority Community Leaders



Through coordination mapping, case study discussions, and group exercises, participants explored constitutional protections, early-warning approaches, and practical steps for coordinated crisis response. LAS also convened joint experience-sharing workshops so district actors could exchange challenges and workable solutions.

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### Key recommendations included:

- Holding regular interdepartmental coordination meetings,
- Strengthening referral pathways,
- Ensuring stronger representation of minority communities within district structures

A key outcome was the formation of a multi-stakeholder working group to support referrals and sustain collaboration beyond the activity period. In Sukkur, the Additional Deputy Commissioner and NGO focal person, Ms. Bushra, commended the sessions and requested a follow-up mediation awareness session



# Partnership & Collaborations

## Naqsh-e-Adal: Where Stories of Injustice Found a Voice and a Future

📅 7 December 2025 | 📍 Karachi

On December 7, 2025, we hosted its inaugural fundraising evening, Naqsh-e-Adal, a moment that marked more than the launch of a new chapter; it signaled a growing community of support for the fundamental belief that justice must be accessible to all. Held at the residence of Dr. Danish Aman, Patron of Resource Mobilization at LAS, the evening brought together a diverse gathering of philanthropists, legal professionals, and justice champions, all bound by a shared purpose: to ensure that Pakistan's most vulnerable are not left to navigate injustice alone.

The program opened with a reflection on the significance of justice in everyday lives, followed by powerful testimonies from beneficiaries whose stories of violence, exclusion, and ultimately justice underscored the urgency of our work. In her address, Barrister Haya Emaan Zahid, CEO of the Legal Aid Society, highlighted both the scale and intent of our impact, from 56 million individuals reached through awareness campaigns to an 84 percent success rate in gender-based violence cases, emphasizing that justice must live within communities through trusted structures such as Justice Hubs, paralegal networks, and survivor-centered litigation. The fundraising appeal, led by Dr. Danish Aman, framed justice as a public good and reminded the audience that supporting legal services means funding turning points in people's lives. The evening closed with acknowledgements by Sumera Salim, Head of Resource Development, who recognized the Host Committee for making the event possible.

Naqsh-e-Adal was not just an evening of fundraising; it was a statement of intent. In a legal system where over 2.3 million cases remain pending, and where the vast majority face systemic barriers to representation, this evening reaffirmed the importance of investing in access to justice not as charity, but as necessity.

The evening's success was made possible by the leadership and generosity of our Host Committee. We extend our sincere gratitude to: Mr. and Mrs. Danish Aman, Ms. Saira Bakza and Mr. Saad Saleem Dalal, Mr. and Mrs. Nauman Vohra, Ms. Shazya and Mr. Shoaib Diwan, Mr. and Mrs. Sameer Sabir, Ms. Nausheen Zaid, Mr. and Mrs. Zahid Hameed, Mr. and Mrs. Hasan Mandviwalla, Ms. Maliha Zia and Mr. Ibaad Lari, Mr. and Mrs. Ahsan Ayub, Barrister Haya Emaan Zahid and Mr. Adnan Javed, Dr. Samia Babar, Dr. Habiba Hasan, Mr. Adil Chapra, Mr. Ali Haji and Mr. Taimur Siddique, Mr. and Mrs. Ayas Ahmed, Mr. and Mrs. Yasir Shafi, Mr. Yasir Mapara, Mr. and Mrs. Aurangzeb Shaikh, Mr. and Mrs. Raza Zaidi



## We Join Hand with Crescent Steel to Build Justice with Purpose



Crescent Steel &  
Allied Products Limited

We're proud to welcome Crescent Steel and Allied Products as our newest CSR partner in the justice movement. Through this collaboration, we're delivering legal aid, financial literacy, and digital empowerment to underserved communities, especially women, youth, and those excluded from formal systems. Crescent's support reflects a powerful commitment to building with purpose, proving that corporate responsibility can drive systemic change where it's needed most.

## LAS × Bank Alfalah: ADAL - Justice with Dignity, Awareness and Empowerment



x



Bank Alfalah

📅 17 October 2025 | 📍 Karachi

On 17 October 2025, the Legal Aid Society (LAS) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Bank Alfalah to launch ADAL – Dignity, Awareness and Empowerment, a year-long initiative focused on strengthening access to justice and financial inclusion in Karachi's underserved communities.

Through ADAL, LAS and Bank Alfalah are addressing the intersection of legal exclusion and financial vulnerability by combining legal awareness, financial literacy, and direct legal support. Over the next twelve months, the programme will deliver 100 community awareness sessions across Karachi, enabling participants to better understand their rights, navigate legal processes, and make informed financial decisions. The initiative places a strong emphasis on women, recognising the structural barriers they continue to face in accessing justice and formal financial systems.

During the last quarter alone, LAS conducted 25 community awareness sessions in Karachi's most deprived and high-risk areas, engaging 20–25 participants per session. These sessions created safe, accessible spaces for community members- particularly women- to engage directly with legal and financial information relevant to their everyday realities.

Beyond awareness and training, ADAL will provide pro bono legal representation for 40 individuals who lack the means to afford counsel, ensuring that increased knowledge is matched with meaningful legal support. During the reporting quarter, 10 litigation cases related to gender-based violence, child custody, and family law were taken up under the programme, with one case successfully disposed of, reflecting early progress in translating legal empowerment into concrete justice outcomes.

This partnership reflects a shared commitment by LAS and Bank Alfalah to building a more equitable and just Pakistan and aligns with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities).

Promoting financial inclusion is objective of the programme and financial literacy sessions are provided to focus on expense management, budgeting, understanding income streams, and secure financial planning, equipping participants with practical skills to navigate everyday financial challenges. Interactive sessions have brought together women from marginalized communities to develop realistic household budgets and explore responsible saving strategies. Participants also received guidance on safe banking practices, including identifying online scams and fraudulent communications such as suspicious calls requesting one-time passwords (OTPs). These sessions strengthened confidence in protecting personal finances and making prudent financial decisions.

At the Legal Aid Society, we believe justice must extend beyond the courtroom and into everyday life. Through ADAL, and partnerships like this with Bank Alfalah, we continue working to make justice and financial security accessible, practical, and rooted in dignity, contributing to a more inclusive and resilient economy for all.



## Success Stories

(Names and identifying details have been withheld for safety and privacy.)

### Ensuring Due Process in a Child Sexual Abuse Case

In a case involving alleged sexual abuse of two minors, LAS supported an application challenging the way the children’s statements were recorded during proceedings. Counsel argued that earlier attempts did not meet the mandatory safeguards required under the **Anti-Rape (Investigation and Trial) Act, 2021**, which are intended to protect the integrity of evidence and ensure fair trial standards.

The appellate court agreed that the process needed to follow the law’s procedural requirements and directed the trial court to **re-record the statements** in strict compliance with the Act including required safeguards such as the presence of the accused, the right to cross-examine through counsel, and video recording of the statement.

This outcome reinforced the importance of lawful procedure particularly in sensitive cases so that survivor testimony is recorded in a manner that is both rights-based and legally sound.

### Interim Protection Order for a Transgender Domestic Violence Survivor

LAS supported a transgender survivor seeking protection from ongoing domestic violence and threats under **the Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act, 2013**. The petition requested urgent safeguards to ensure safety, dignity, and freedom from harassment.

On **22 November 2025**, the court granted an interim protection order that included:



Protection from violence



No-content order



Right to remain in home



Police enforcement

The order provided immediate protection and affirmed that domestic violence protections must extend

**@legalaidsocietypakistan**



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