



LAS

LEGAL AID SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

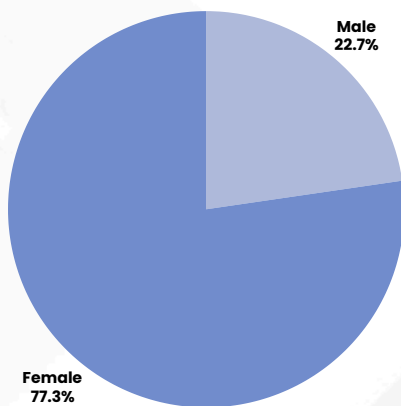
JANUARY-MARCH 2025
30TH EDITION

RESHAPING SOLUTIONS FOR ACCESSING JUSTICE IN PAKISTAN

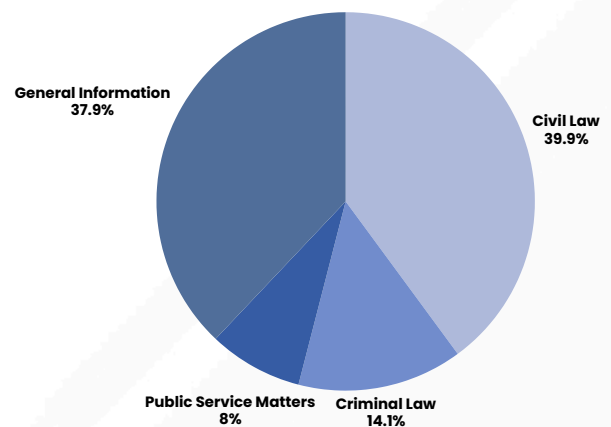
EMPOWERING CITIZENS AT THE FOREFRONT OF CRISES THROUGH ITS TOLL-FREE NUMBER 0800-70806 – A PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF SINDH AND THE LEGAL AID SOCIETY

The Sindh Legal Advisory Call Center (SLACC), a flagship initiative of the Legal Aid Society (LAS) in collaboration with the Government of Sindh (GoS), continues to break new ground in providing free and accessible legal assistance. As Pakistan's first-of-its-kind toll-free helpline, SLACC has successfully catered to a vast audience through its Interactive Voice Recording (IVR) system, handling an astounding **453,379 calls and registering 222,377 queries from over 600 cities across Pakistan**. Each query is meticulously addressed by High Court-enrolled Agent Lawyers, ensuring that callers receive accurate and conclusive legal guidance.

Gender Bifurcation



Categories of Queries

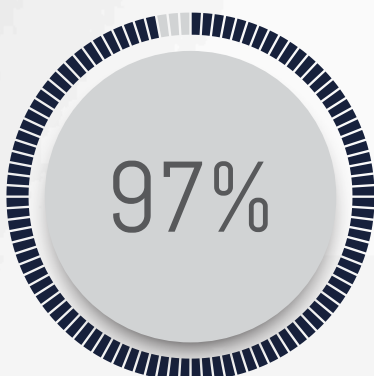


With the public launch of NAZ Assist on October 1, 2024, SLACC has further expanded its reach through a free-of-cost, multi-lingual legal advisory chatbot. Within its first few months:

- 4,000+ users have accessed legal information through NAZ Assist
- 500+ users requested a callback for further assistance

PUBLIC AWARENESS AND MARKETING EFFORTS

After achieving positive results, SLACC continued its marketing efforts during the reporting quarter as part of its comprehensive Mar-Comms (Marketing-Communications) campaign. As SLACC's media campaign was successfully administered throughout the reporting quarter, an increased number of calls were received at SLACC's helpline 0800-70806.



ANNUAL TARGET ACHIEVED THREE MONTHS BEFORE THE FISCAL YEAR'S CONCLUSION— HANDLING OVER 32,090 QUERIES ACROSS PAKISTAN DUE TO INCREASED MEDIA AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS

ARY NEWS VISITS SLACC FOR INTERVIEW ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

On February 7, 2025, the ARY News team visited SLACC for an exclusive interview with Advocate Izza Rizvi to discuss the critical issues of domestic violence and the rising divorce rate in Pakistan. This insightful session provided SLACC with the platform to share its mission, objectives, and ongoing efforts in providing free legal aid to those affected by such social challenges. The interview helped raise awareness of SLACC's work and its role in addressing key legal issues facing the community.



SLACC LAWYERS FEATURED ON DHARTI TV'S BARKAT-E-RAMZAN SHOW

SLACC lawyers appeared on Dharti TV's Barkat-e-Ramzan Iftar transmission, addressing key legal issues such as domestic violence, inheritance rights, and family law. Their expert guidance throughout Ramzan helped raise awareness and ensure access to justice for viewers.



SLACC INFLUENCER CAMPAIGNS

On January 13, 2025, SLACC hosted renowned Sindhi actor and influencer Ali Gul Mallah for a promotional video shoot, where he expressed great appreciation for SLACC's impactful work and showed interest in future collaborations. His endorsement message went viral, garnering over **259k views, 10k likes, and 1.1k shares** on his Facebook page, greatly increasing SLACC's visibility. Just a week later, on January 20, 2025, SLACC had the opportunity to collaborate with social media influencer Uzair Sakrani, whose **200,000+** followers helped raise awareness about SLACC's mission through his publicity and visibility shoot. Additionally, Pakistani female hockey player Erum Baloch shared a powerful message advocating for women's empowerment and ensuring access to justice, further supporting SLACC's efforts to promote gender equality and legal rights.



SLACC OUTREACH AT MILLENNIUM INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP (MITE)

On February 26, 2025, SLACC participated in an outreach event at the Millennium Institute of Technology and Entrepreneurship (MITE). The event allowed SLACC to engage with a diverse audience, share its mission, and distribute informational brochures. The team also networked with students, professionals, and potential partners to explore collaboration opportunities and expand SLACC's reach, reinforcing its commitment to providing free legal assistance and raising awareness about access to justice.



SLACC BROCHURES DISTRIBUTION IN DHARTI MAAL A MAAL GAME SHOW

As part of our media partnership with Dharti TV, the SLACC team distributed brochures during Ramzan on the nighttime game show, Dharti Maal a Maal, hosted by Ali Gul Mallah. The show attracted around 150–200 visitors on weekdays and 200–300 on weekends, primarily women and families, providing an excellent opportunity to raise awareness about SLACC's services.



COLLABORATIONS

SLACC ENGAGES WITH THE BALOCHISTAN LAW DEPARTMENT

On February 21, 2025, SLACC hosted a productive and engaging meeting with a delegation from the Balochistan Law Department. Representing LAS, Justice Arif Khilji Sahib led the session, facilitating a creative and insightful discussion around potential models for collaboration between the departments. Following the meeting, the delegation visited the Sindh Law Secretary's office, where they were introduced to LAS's impactful work, strong reputation, and commitment to quality and accountability. The Law Secretary recognized LAS as a leading organization serving marginalized communities with integrity and dedication.

This acknowledgment reinforced the value of LAS's work, prompting the Balochistan Law Department to express strong interest in collaborating with SLACC in the near future, with the goal of adapting and implementing similar initiatives in their province.



TRAININGS AT THE SINDH LEGAL ADVISORY CALL CENTER

TRAINING ON TAX LAWS

On 9th January 2025, a specialized training session on Tax Laws was held at SLACC. The session was conducted by Senior Corporate Lawyer and Tax Practitioner, Advocate Faheem Shah. This interactive session lasted for two hours and equipped SLACC lawyers with essential knowledge on tax-related legal matters.



SINDH PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (SPMS)- SLACC INTEGRATION

The monumental integration between SLACC and the Chief Secretary's Complaint Portal, commonly known as SPMS, materialized on the 1st of November, 2023. Since then, Callers have been successfully seeking legal advice and remedies for public maladministration from a single helpline. We're now beginning to see the real impact of this integration: inspiring success stories where individuals have received timely legal support and resolution to their grievances. In this edition, we're excited to share a few of these exceptional outcomes with you.

SPMS SUCCESS STORIES

Victory of a Retired Hero: The Quest for Justice

When Dr. Daleep called, his voice was filled with frustration and determination. He was advocating for his wife, Dr. Janki Bai, who had served the Population Welfare Department faithfully. Since her retirement in 2020, her dues were unjustly withheld, with officials demanding bribes.

Advocate Faheem became their beacon of hope, guiding them through bureaucracy. The advice: file a complaint with the Chief Secretary of Sindh via the SPMS portal. It was daunting, but necessary for justice.

The SLACC team supported them, ensuring every detail was handled. By April 2024, notices were sent to the relevant department. By October 2024, the case was resolved, and Dr. Janki Bai's dues were released.

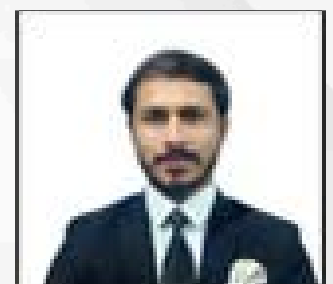


ADVOCATE FAHEEM

Legacy Lands: Passed Down and Paved for the Future

Against all odds, the caller's wife triumphed in court, securing her rightful share of her late father's inheritance. Yet, their joy was overshadowed by the revenue department's corrupt demands for bribes, delaying the transfer of her land. With unwavering resolve and the guidance of Advocate Sher Hussain, they lodged a complaint with the Chief Secretary Sindh.

Their perseverance paid off. By October 2024, justice prevailed as the land was finally transferred to its rightful owner. Their gratitude was profound, a testament to the power of resilience and support.



**ADVOCATE SHER
HUSSAIN**

Justice Wins for a Domestic Violence Survivor

A heartbroken woman reached out to SLACC, her voice heavy with the burden of severe abuse inflicted by her brother and his wife. Her face bore the scars of their cruelty, and her mother suffered painful burns. With compassion and urgency, Advocate Izza Rizvi advised her to stand strong and seek justice.

She guided her to file a magistrate complaint, contact the police for immediate intervention and a Medico-Legal Certificate, and pursue residential and protection orders under the Domestic Violence Act, 2013. In her darkest hour, hope flickered through the promise of legal support. The Court issued bailable warrants against her brother and his wife, barred them from evicting her family, and granted police protection, ensuring safety and justice for the caller.



**ADVOCATE IZZA
RIZVI**

Triumph Over Injustice: A Case of Illegal Possession

In a heartfelt plea for justice, an individual reached out for help against those unlawfully occupying their cherished plot. Advocate Parveen Khurram Sheikh, with unwavering dedication, provided a beacon of hope. She advised filing a complaint under Section 3 of the Illegal Dispossession Act, 2005, urging swift action from the Session Judge to bring the truth to light.

Her guidance included a request for a police investigation and a timely resolution within 60 days. She also empowered the caller to seek interim possession under Section 7, offering a glimmer of hope amidst despair. Grateful for the support, the caller expressed their heartfelt thanks, marking a significant step toward reclaiming what was rightfully theirs.



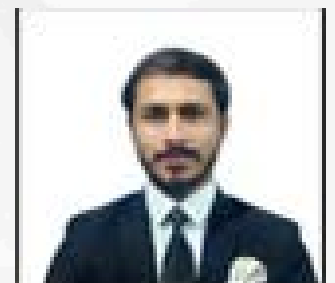
**ADVOCATE PARVEEN
KHURRAM SHEIKH**

Village Education Victory: A Tale of Determination and Dreams

In a heartfelt quest for education, a villager reached out to Advocate Sher Hussain, desperate to secure a school for his community. Despite being met with silence from the Taluka and District Education Officers, Advocate Hussain's unwavering support guided him through the bureaucratic maze.

With determined resolve, the villager was advised to escalate his plea to higher authorities, including the Secretary of Education and, if necessary, the Chief Secretary of Sindh through the SLACC and SPMS Portal.

A glimmer of hope emerged when, on January 4, 2025, the villager joyfully reported receiving a notice from the District Education Officer in Mirpurkhas, confirming a breakthrough in his relentless pursuit. This success story stands as a testament to the power of resilience and expert guidance in championing the fundamental right to education for all.



**ADVOCATE SHER
HUSSAIN**

STRENGTHENING THE GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE TO SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN PAKISTAN

LAUNCH OF THE ANTI-RAPE CRISIS CELL AT BAHAWAL VICTORIA HOSPITAL, BAHAWALPUR:

On February 21st, 2025, the Legal Aid Society, Specialized Healthcare and Medical Education Department in Punjab, and United Nations Population Fund jointly launched the Anti-Rape Crisis Cell (ARCC) at Bahawal Victoria Hospital in Bahawalpur, marking a significant step in addressing Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) in Southern Punjab. The ARCC provides comprehensive medico-legal, legal, and psychological support while fostering collaboration among law enforcement, healthcare, and judiciary stakeholders. In alignment with the Anti-Rape (Investigation and Trial) Act, 2021, the initiative aims to reduce retraumatization, improve conviction rates, and establish sustainable frameworks for SGBV prevention and response.

The event brought together dignitaries from the government and healthcare to operationalize a survivor-centered support system. This launch underscores the collective responsibility to uphold survivors' rights and create a safer, equitable society.



MULTI-SECTORAL TRAINING FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM ACTORS IN PUNJAB

In collaboration with UNFPA Pakistan, we organized a multi-sectoral training session on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) for criminal justice system actors in Lahore and Peshawar. The training was held in Bhurban and aimed to enhance the capacity of key stakeholders, including police officers, medico-legal officers, and prosecutors, in effectively implementing laws related to sexual violence in Punjab.

The Prosecutor General Punjab, Mr. Syed Farhad Ali Shah alongside Medico-Legal Surgeon Punjab, Dr. Farhat Sultana covered crucial topics including legal frameworks, medico-legal procedures, and gaps in investigation and trial processes.



PROMOTING JUSTICE AND PEACE: LAS & A4ID'S COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS IN SINDH

The Legal Aid Society (LAS) is dedicated to ensuring access to justice, legal empowerment, and social protection for marginalized communities in Pakistan. Through advocacy, capacity-building, and legal support, LAS aims to create a just and equitable society. In partnership with Advocates for International Development (A4ID), an international charity focused on addressing the legal needs of vulnerable communities worldwide, LAS is working to strengthen local peacebuilding and dispute resolution structures, such as District Peace Committees (DPCs), across Sindh.

JOINT EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN PEACEBUILDING IN SINDH

LAS and A4ID successfully held their first intervention, a one-day orientation session for DPC members in four districts of Sindh: Hyderabad, Dadu, Sukkur, and Sanghar. The session brought together 43 participants, including women, religious minorities, and differently-abled individuals. The training focused on equipping participants with key knowledge on their roles and responsibilities, as well as newly developed Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for peacebuilding and conflict resolution. The session highlighted strengthening the role of DPCs in conflict resolution, proactively mapping community tensions to prevent conflicts, mapping stakeholders for effective collaboration with local leaders, creating early warning systems for conflict detection, and developing annual work plans for structured peacebuilding strategies.

The session included key figures such as Miss Maria from the Women Protection Cell in Hyderabad, Mr. Sabir Mahar of DDMA & EWS in Sanghar, and others from various organizations. Participants praised LAS for its efforts to enhance the capacity of District Peace Committees (DPCs) and committed to regular meetings for effective coordination. Miss Maria expressed gratitude for the session's insights, while Ms. Pushpa highlighted the importance of including religious minorities in peacebuilding. Mr. Habib Rehman appreciated learning about DPC roles, and community leader Mr. Muhammad Shah valued the opportunity to understand DPC significance. Mr. Sabir Mahar encouraged LAS to continue its advocacy for sustainability and implementation of these initiatives.

IMPROVING THE UNDERSTANDING OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS UNDER MUSLIM FAMILY LAWS

PARALEGAL CELEBRATION

Our women paralegals have been the cornerstone in raising awareness regarding the importance of nikkahnama and marital rights within their communities. Hence, to celebrate their achievements and their volunteer spirit, we gathered our paralegals in Karachi for an evening of celebration, comradery, and storytelling.

The evening featured theater plays designed and performed by our paralegals on how mobilizing married women to seek their rights in a marriage had impacted them personally and the changes they brought within their own family structures. The event also featured a trivia competition, certificate distribution, and speeches from the paralegals sharing their journey.



UNITING FOR JUSTICE: LEGAL AID SOCIETY LITIGATION TEAM LEADS STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT TO SUPPORT THE MARGINALIZED

LITIGATION TEAM'S MEETING AT DAR-UL-AMAN, SUKKUR

Litigation team held a focused meeting with the Dar-ul-Aman in-charges to discuss coordinated efforts for timely survivor referrals. The discussion emphasized the importance of secure shelter, psychosocial support, and streamlined legal interventions through better inter-agency collaboration.



MEETING AT AT SAFE HOUSE AND WOMEN COMPLAINT CELL, QAMBAR SHAHDADKOT

The litigation team engaged with officials to enhance survivor access to legal remedies and safe shelter. Discussions focused on streamlining complaint registration, ensuring survivor-friendly procedures, and establishing coordination for effective follow-up and case resolution.



MEETING WITH GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE COURT PROSECUTORS

Karachi LAS Litigation team and GBV court prosecutors explored ways to fast-track cases related to gender-based violence. The focus was on survivor-sensitive prosecution, improved coordination, and minimizing delays in the justice process.



MEETING AT GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE PROSECUTORS' OFFICE, DADU

The meeting revolved around enhancing cooperation between LAS and prosecution teams to improve case tracking, evidence handling, and survivor engagement in the legal process. A joint strategy for strengthening case outcomes was also discussed.



MEETING AT WOMEN COMPLAINT CELL SHAHEED BENAZIRABAD

The team discussed multi-agency approaches for improving survivor outreach and legal redressal. Emphasis was placed on timely response, interdepartmental communication, and mechanisms to support survivors through each stage of the complaint process.



MEETING AT AT POLICE FACILITATION CENTRE HYDERABAD

The litigation team met with police officials to assess current facilitation services for survivors and identify gaps in access to justice. Together, they planned improved coordination for legal aid provision and a more survivor-sensitive police response.



JUSTICE RESTORED: STORIES OF RESILIENCE AND HOPE

JUSTICE ILLUMINATED: LEGAL AID SOCIETY – A LIFELINE FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SURVIVORS

In a moving testament to justice and women's rights, the Legal Aid Society (LAS) emerged as a beacon of hope for a survivor of severe domestic violence. Trapped in a nightmare of emotional, physical, psychological, and sexual abuse, the survivor found herself isolated even after a mutual divorce. The threats and fear persisted, endangering her and her family.

Desperate and with no other options, she turned to LAS, where she received free legal support and unwavering representation. The legal team quickly filed a petition under the Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act, 2013, detailing the relentless harassment she endured.

Thanks to the tireless efforts of LAS, the court recognized the urgency of the situation. The Honourable Court ordered the respondent to provide a surety of Rs. 30,000 and issued an interim protection order. This order legally restrained the respondent from harassing or contacting the survivor and her family, and prohibited him from entering her home or workplace.

Additionally, the respondent was forbidden from any form of communication and from defaming her. The court directed the police to ensure her safety and help enforce these orders.

This landmark ruling brought immense relief and safety to the survivor, sending a powerful message that justice is real and survivors of abuse are never alone. The Legal Aid Society continues to advocate fiercely for the voiceless, ensuring that the marginalized and vulnerable—especially women—are empowered, protected, and heard.

A MOTHER'S VICTORY – JUSTICE WINS!

In a heartbreaking case of injustice, a mother was verbally divorced and torn from her child, cast out of her home. Despite suffering emotional abuse and desertions, she had sought reconciliation for her child's sake. Yet, her child was cruelly snatched away, leaving her desperate and terrified. Seeking help, she turned to the Legal Aid Society (LAS).

With LAS's support, a Habeas Corpus petition was filed, and the court ordered the police to bring the child forth. After hearing the case, the court ruled in the mother's favor, restoring her child's custody and the sacred bond of maternal care.

This case highlights LAS's steadfast dedication to justice, showing that legal aid can reunite families and restore dignity, safety, and hope.



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