



RESULTS REPORT 2025



Executive Summary

2025 was one of the most destabilizing years in the Legal Aid Society's history. Abrupt U.S. Government stop-work orders forced the suspension of U.S.-funded programs, effectively freezing over 70% of LAS's active portfolio and triggering the suspension of contracts for approximately 124 staff members. As a result, more than 150,000 people faced potential disruption in access to legal protection, while over 400 ongoing court cases (many involving sexual violence, family separation, and survival-level claims) were at serious risk of being abandoned mid-process.

LAS treated this moment as a test of institutional ethics. The question was not whether programs could continue as designed, but whether justice already promised would be withdrawn. The organization chose continuity of care and service delivery.

Despite severe contraction, LAS sustained core justice services and delivered measurable results across service delivery, system reform, and institutional resilience. In 2025, LAS directly served 102,472 individuals through litigation, helplines, community-based legal empowerment, and technology-enabled platforms. These services ensured that women, families, and marginalized communities could still access justice at moments of acute vulnerability. In parallel, LAS reached 31.45 million people nationwide through verified mass legal awareness campaigns, expanding early access to legal information and remedies at scale.

At the case level, LAS handled approximately 800 litigation matters before courts, primarily involving sexual and gender-based violence, family law, child custody, maintenance, and women's property and inheritance rights. Of the cases decided during the year, LAS achieved an 84% success rate, reflecting the effectiveness of survivor-centered representation despite systemic delays. Critically, more than 400 active cases were carried forward into 2026 with continuity secured, preventing irreversible harm to survivors who would otherwise have been left without legal recourse.

Early access to justice remained central to LAS's work. Through the Sindh Legal Advisory Call Center (SLACC); a public-private partnership with the Government of Sindh; LAS addressed 53,048 legal queries, providing free legal advice nationwide. Technology further expanded reach through NAZ Assist, a multilingual legal advisory chatbot used by 11,424 individuals, enabling discreet access for those unable to travel or seek face-to-face assistance. For many, justice in 2025 began not in a courtroom, but with a phone call or a digital interaction that opened a pathway forward.

Beyond individual cases, LAS delivered system-level change in one of Pakistan's most fragile justice domains. In 2025, LAS supported the operationalization of three provincial Sexual Violence Response Frameworks, facilitated five multi-sectoral coordination mechanisms, and contributed to the approval of a new Anti-Rape Crisis Cell in Hyderabad. Through targeted training and technical support, LAS built the capacity of 687 justice-sector and state actors. These interventions contributed to a rise in Sindh's SGBV conviction rate from 3 percent in 2020 to 17 percent in 2025, and a reduction in average trial duration from 16.8 months to 11 month; reflecting structural improvements in accountability.

In response to the funding crisis, LAS undertook a decisive pivot toward sustainability. Through domestic fundraising, CSR partnerships, and community giving, LAS secured continuity for more than 400 legal cases, launched the Fish Tank Livelihood Support Initiative to restore income for staff affected by funding cuts, and adopted a leaner operating model with diversified funding streams.

In December 2025, LAS inaugurated two Justice Hubs in Hyderabad and Sanghar, establishing permanent, community-anchored justice infrastructure. Coupled with an institutional Artificial Intelligence Policy, enterprise-wide digital systems, and integrated service data, these investments position LAS to deliver justice that endures beyond projects and funding cycles.

By the close of 2025, Legal Aid Society had not only sustained justice delivery under extreme constrain; it had emerged stronger, more resilient, and more future-ready.

Justice, once promised, was not withdrawn.



102,472

Individuals Directly Accessed Justice



31.45 Million

People Reached Through Awareness



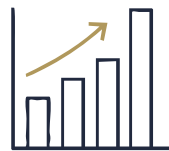
53,048

Legal queries Addressed Through SLACC



700+

Paralegals Network



84%

Overall Case Success Rate



800+

Litigation Cases Supported



687

Justice Actors Capacitated



03

Sexual Violence Response Frameworks Operationalized



04

Justice Hubs Established

Message from the CEO

Some years measure progress. Others reveal character. 2025 was the latter.

For the Legal Aid Society, this year stripped away any illusion that access to justice is secure once established. Systems we had built carefully over years were suddenly placed under strain by forces entirely outside our control. The consequences were not abstract. They were immediate and human. When funding halted, it was not programs that paused; it was lives left in limbo, cases left unfinished, and trust put at risk.

In that moment, the question before us was simple and difficult:

what does responsibility look like when certainty disappears?

Our answer was to stay.

We chose not to retreat from the people already inside the justice system; i.e. women seeking protection, families navigating separation, survivors waiting for accountability. That choice carried cost, discomfort, and hard institutional decisions. But it also clarified something fundamental:

Justice cannot be conditional on funding cycles. Once engaged, it must be carried through.

This year reshaped how I think about leadership in the justice sector. It reaffirmed that scale matters, but continuity matters more. That innovation is not about novelty, but about removing friction where people are most vulnerable. And that institutions earn legitimacy not through ambition alone, but through restraint, ethics, and follow-through under pressure.

I am deeply grateful to the partners, donors, and individuals who understood this and stood with Legal Aid Society when predictability gave way to principle. Your support was not just financial; it was an affirmation that justice is a shared responsibility, sustained through trust and values rather than transactions. It allowed us to protect ongoing cases, support our people with dignity, and keep justice within reach for those who had nowhere else to turn.

2025 also marked a quiet but important shift in how we imagine access to justice. We saw more clearly that geography, stigma, and mobility continue to shape who can seek help and who cannot. In response, we leaned into technology and community-based infrastructure not as substitutes for human judgment, but as bridges to it. For many, justice began this year not with a courtroom, but with a moment of recognition: I can ask for help. As we look ahead, Legal Aid Society is entering its next phase with humility and resolve. Our roots remain firmly in Sindh, but our responsibility is national. We will continue building systems that last beyond projects, investing in partnerships that strengthen institutions, and grounding innovation in the lived realities of the people we serve.

Above all, this year reinforced a belief that has guided our work since the beginning: a case is never just a case. It is a measure of safety, dignity, and possibility. What we carried through 2025 was not only legal work; it was a commitment to see justice through, even when it would have been easier to stop.

That commitment remains unchanged.



Barrister Haya Emaan Zahid



About Legal Aid Society

Legal Aid Society (LAS) is a not-for-profit justice organization working to ensure that justice in Pakistan is not only guaranteed in law, but accessible in practice, particularly for women, children, religious minorities and structurally excluded communities.

Founded in 2013 by Justice Nasir Aslam Zahid, LAS bridges the gap between rights on paper and lived realities by combining direct legal services, early legal empowerment and sustained institutional engagement. LAS advances justice not as isolated casework, but as a system that protects individuals while addressing the structural conditions that enable injustice.



Justice Nasir Aslam Zahid

Our Thematic Pillars

LAS's work is organized around four interlinked justice pillars:



Access to Justice

Survivor-centered legal representation, early legal advice, alternative dispute resolution and community-based justice services that reduce delay, escalation and harm.



Freedom of Religious Belief

Legal empowerment, prevention of forced conversion and violence, conflict de-escalation and strengthened state accountability to protect religious minorities and promote equal citizenship.



Gender and Child Security

Strengthening responses to sexual and gender-based violence, child marriage and family-related harm through litigation, system reform and institutional coordination across police, prosecution, health and courts.



Climate Resilience, Sustainability, and Security

Addressing the justice dimensions of climate vulnerability through legal aid, civil documentation support and institutional accountability to prevent long-term rights deprivation.

Institutional Footprint and Partnerships

LAS OPERATES ACROSS:

- SINDH
- PUNJAB
- GILGIT - BALTISTAN
- ISLAMABAD CAPITAL TERITORY
- BALOCHISTAN
- KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA


06 REGIONS SERVED

SERVING URBAN AND RURAL COMMUNITIES



THE ORGANIZATION WORKS CLOSELY WITH:

 Courts	 Provincial and District Administrations
 Prosecution Services	 Statutory Bodies
 Police	 Civil Society Partners

 Collaboration with research institutions, legal professionals and international networks strengthens alignment with global best practices while remaining grounded in Pakistan’s legal context.

Institutional Philosophy

LAS FOLLOWS GLOBAL NAMATI LEGAL EMPOWERMENT APPROACH:

	<p>Expanding access to legal information and advice</p>		<p>Providing representation and practical assistance</p>		<p>Advancing research-based policy and legal reform</p>
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Guided by independence, integrity, inclusion and accountability, LAS integrates preventative legal empowerment, direct assistance and institutional reform to advance human security and equitable access to justice across Pakistan.

Country Context

Pakistan’s justice system continues to face severe structural pressure. National judicial statistics show over

2 MILLION

Cases Pending Across Courts

resulting in prolonged delays in adjudication and enforcement.



Globally, these challenges are reflected in Pakistan’s low justice indicators.




Weak Performance

-  Civil Justice
-  Criminal Justice
-  Protection of Fundamentals Rights

Gender inequality further deepens these barriers, with Pakistan ranked

148 out of 148

on the
World Economic Forum’s Global Gender Gap Index

 limiting women’s ability to access protection, remedies, and enforcement.



Legal Aid Gap

While District Legal Empowerment Committees (DLECs) are present in

132 DISTRICTS

their scope of service remains dangerously narrow



94% FOCUS ON CRIMINAL/PRISON MATTERS

CRIMINAL CASES

CIVIL & FAMILY CASES

MISSING CRITICAL CIVIL & FAMILY SUPPORT

The current legal aid distribution fails to reach women and children who most urgently require intervention in non-criminal legal matters.



The Human Cost



VULNERABILITY OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN

Justice delays result in immediate physical and social consequences, including continued exposure to violence and prolonged family separation.



370+ SGBV AND FAMILY CASES IN 2025

LAS's 2025 caseload reflects the high demand for support in domestic abuse, child custody, and maintenance disputes.



FINANCIAL AND SOCIAL LOSS

Beyond physical safety, systemic failures lead to significant financial loss for vulnerable individuals seeking timely legal protection.

A Defining Moment for LAS

Against this backdrop of systemic failure and human suffering, the Legal Aid Society (LAS) faced four defining questions to determine its strategic direction.



How LAS Ensured People Received Justice?



How LAS Reached the Last Mile?



How LAS Changed Systems?



How LAS Survived and Became Stronger?

How LAS Ensured People Received Justice



Access to Justice

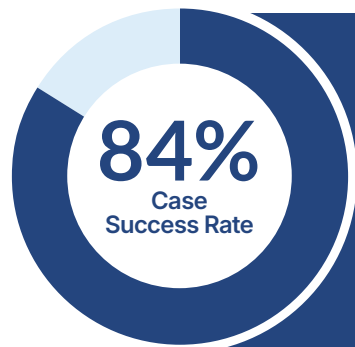
In 2025, the Legal Aid Society delivered justice where it was most at risk of disappearing.

Despite severe contraction, LAS supported



Primarily involving women and families facing sexual violence, domestic abuse, family separation, child custody disputes, and economic survival.

Positive justice outcomes:



Protection Orders Enforced



Maintenance Secured



Custody Restored



Survivors Protected



400+
Active Cases

were carried forward into 2026 with continuity secured. At a moment when funding volatility could have halted legal processes, LAS ensured that people already inside the justice system were not left stranded.

Justice, once initiated, was carried through.

Survivor-centered legal strategies reduced re-traumatization during court proceedings, while close coordination with police, prosecutors, special courts, shelter homes, and protection services improved both case outcomes and institutional response.

In a year defined by uncertainty, LAS protected what mattered most:

people mid-journey to justice.



Human Impact Stories

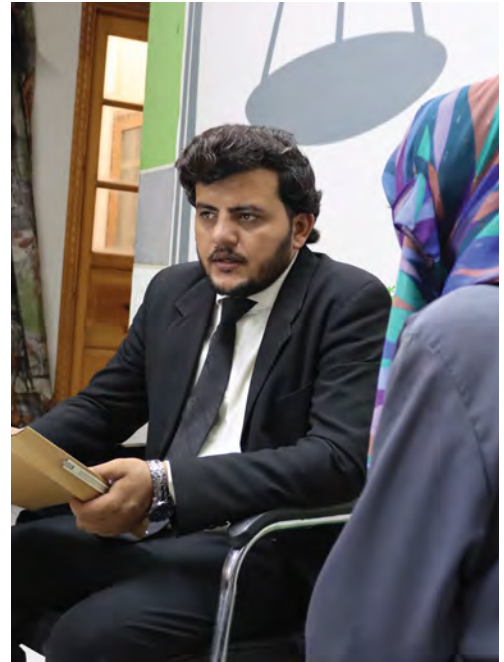
(Name changed to protect identity)

Ayesha's Story of Courage and Justice

In a deeply distressing case of domestic violence, a woman was attacked with acid by her brother, who later assaulted her husband and sons with a knife. The family suffered severe injuries and lasting trauma. What followed was not only physical recovery, but a prolonged struggle for accountability.

LAS represented the survivor throughout the criminal trial, presenting eyewitness testimony and medical evidence that established the deliberate nature of the attack. The case was pursued consistently despite its complexity and the risks involved.

In August 2025, the court sentenced the perpetrator to 14 years of rigorous imprisonment, imposed a fine of one million rupees, and awarded compensation to the victims. For the survivor and her family, justice meant safety, recognition, and the assurance that extreme violence would not go unanswered.



Protection Secured for a Survivor of Domestic Violence

(Name changed to protect identity)

Neelam Secures Police Protection after Escaping Domestic Violence

In another case, a woman facing ongoing domestic violence found herself isolated and under constant threat, even after separation. Fearing for her safety and that of her family, she approached LAS for legal support when no other remedies seemed effective.

LAS promptly filed a petition under the Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act, 2013, setting out the sustained abuse and the immediate risk to the survivor. Based on the facts presented, the court issued an interim protection order, directed the respondent to furnish a surety of Rs. 30,000, and restrained him from harassing or contacting the survivor.

The court further prohibited the respondent from entering her home or workplace and directed the police to ensure her safety and enforce the order. What changed was immediate and tangible: the survivor regained security, stability, and the ability to rebuild her life without fear.



How LAS Reached the Last Mile



24/7 Helpline 0800 70806

SLACC
Sindh Legal Advisory Call Center

POWERED BY
LAS
LEGAL AID SOCIETY



JUSTICE HUB

MEDIATION PROCESS مصالحتی عملیاتی

Case Received کیس کی موصولیت

Other Party Contacted فریق

Mediator Appointed Jointly

Mediation Agreement Signed

Mediation Completed

Settlement Agreement Signed

Post-Mediation Feedback

رابطو ک



Helplines, Technology, Community Access

For many in Pakistan, justice does not begin in a courtroom. It begins with understanding.

In 2025, Legal Aid Society expanded early and remote access to justice through multiple entry points designed to remove barriers of cost, geography, stigma, and fear. Even as institutions came under strain, LAS ensured that people could still reach the justice system safely, discreetly, and in time.



These pathways ensured that people did not have to navigate the justice system alone. For many, justice began not with litigation, but with clarity- knowing their rights, options, and next steps. Religious minority communities were able to access confidential legal guidance without fear of exposure, and women facing stigma or isolation could seek support without having to travel or disclose their situation publicly.

By combining in-person services, phone-based advice, community outreach, and digital access, LAS ensured that justice reached the last mile - at scale and across Pakistan.



How LAS Changed Systems



Gender and Child Security

LAS worked with provincial governments and justice institutions to reform how sexual and gender-based violence and child marriage cases are handled, shifting responses toward coordination, speed, and survivor protection.

LAS-Supported Sexual Violence Response Reforms

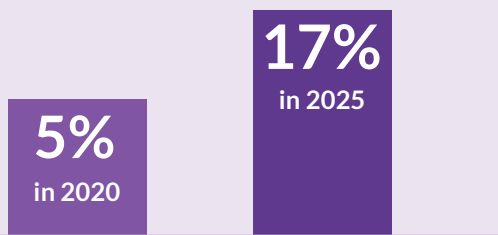


Frameworks Operationlised in
3 Provinces

Cordinating

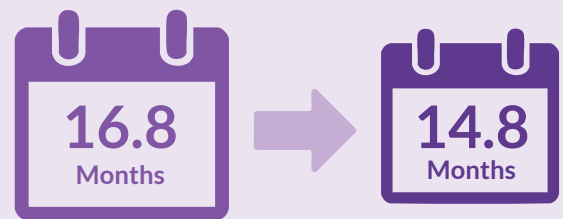
- Police
- Prosecution
- Health Services
- Courts

Conviction Rate for SGBV Cases in Sindh



Increased from 5% to 17%

Average Trial Duration Reduced in Sindh



Reduced from 16.8 to 14.8 Months

Building Capacity for Justice

Over **680** Justice-Sector Actors Trained & Engaged



Judges



Police



Prosecutors



Registrars



Ombudsperson



Administrator

were engaged and capacitated through LAS-led reform efforts to apply survivor-centered legal responses.

Freedom of Religious Belief

LAS strengthened protection and accountability for Religious Minority Communities by combining early legal access, district-level prevention mechanisms, and national-level research and advocacy in coordination with state institutions.



11,000+ Community Members

from Religious Minority Communities accessed justice through LAS-led legal empowerment and outreach initiatives.



4 District Peace Committees were Mobilized

with LAS support to prevent escalation of communal tensions and enable early response.



Forced Conversion through Marriage in Pakistan

LAS-led national research study, was formally launched with the National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR), bringing the issue into national accountability discourse.

Through these interventions, LAS repositioned freedom of religious belief from a reactive protection concern to a preventive justice priority, strengthening both early access for communities and accountability within state systems.



Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)

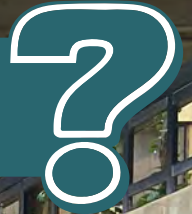
LAS strengthened Pakistan's Alternative Dispute Resolution ecosystem by working with courts, judicial institutions, legal education bodies, and national policy forums to institutionalize mediation as a credible and durable justice pathway. Through its delivery arm Musaliha International Center for Arbitration and Dispute Resolution (MICADR), LAS positioned ADR as a formal complement to litigation ; reducing adversarial harm, easing court backlogs and preserving dignity in family and civil disputes.

- ADR frameworks were embedded within formal justice institutions, with mediation recognized as an integral part of court-linked dispute resolution rather than an informal alternative.
- Judicial ownership of ADR was strengthened through LAS engagement with the Sindh Judicial Academy and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Judicial Academy, reinforcing mediation as a legitimate judicial tool.
- A national policy outcome was achieved with ADR formally included as a mandatory course in the revised HEC 4-year LLB Curriculum (2025), institutionalizing mediation within legal education and shaping the next generation of legal professionals.

Through these interventions, LAS positioned ADR as a durable justice pathway ; one that resolves disputes earlier, reduces pressure on courts and enables fair outcomes without prolonged litigation.



How LAS Survived and Became Stronger



Institutional Resilience and Sustainability

2025 tested whether the Legal Aid Society was a collection of projects or a durable institution.

The response was decisive.



400+ Cases Secured

Through domestic fundraising, ensuring justice already in motion was not abandoned mid-process



Diverse Funding Strategy

Deliberate strategic shift towards diverse funding through CSR, community giving, and private philanthropy, reducing dependence on single-source institutional funding



Leaner Operating Model

A leaner operating model protected core legal capacity, prioritizing frontline justice delivery under constraint



Restoring Livelihoods with Dignity

Livelihoods were restored with dignity for staff affected by funding cuts, reaffirming institutional ethics and responsibility

Most importantly, LAS invested in permanence.

Justice Hubs: Building Permanent Access-to-Justice Infrastructure

In 2025, LAS institutionalised access to justice by establishing Justice Hubs as permanent, community-anchored infrastructure. These hubs are designed as one-stop community justice access points, linking individuals directly with legal services and formal justice institutions, rather than operating as time-bound project sites.

Current status



4 Justice Hubs Established & Operational in

Hyderabad Sanghar Dadu Shaheed Benazirabad (SBA)

3 Additional Justice Hubs in Planning

aligned with provincial expansion priorities

Core services provided at each Justice Hub



Free Legal Advice and Court Representation



Mediation and Dispute Resolution



Legal Awareness and Guidance



Structured Referrals to State Services

Justice Hubs function as walk-in access points, reducing barriers of distance, cost, and fear, while ensuring that justice pathways remain connected to state systems. By embedding services within communities, LAS shifted access to justice from episodic intervention to permanent local infrastructure.



Fish Tank: Ethical Institutional Response to Economic Shock

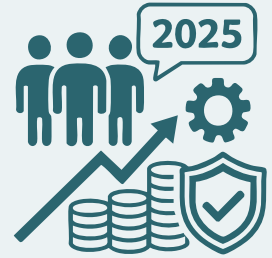
Crisis Response with Dignity

Recognizing the human cost of funding disruptions, LAS launched Fish Tank as an institutional response to restore livelihoods for staff affected by sudden job loss. The initiative reflected a deliberate choice to respond to the crisis with dignity rather than austerity.

Impact in 2025

Supported **14 staff members** whose livelihoods were disrupted, enabling recovery through structured support

- Aided Economic Recovery
- Established Framework for Long-Term Support



Broader Framework

Established a framework to support up to **200 individuals**, including LAS beneficiaries, positioning economic resilience as part of access to justice.



Ethical Leadership



Staff Protection



Institutional Integrity

Reinforcing Values

Commitment to ethical leadership, staff protection, and long-term institutional integrity.



Resource Development and Institutional Sustainability

In 2025, LAS strengthened institutional sustainability by securing resources to expand litigation support, with funding mobilised for 400+ new litigation cases. This marked a deliberate shift in LAS’s funding portfolio toward diversified, non-projectized support, enabling continuity and scale in core legal representation. Resource development efforts reinforced institutional stability while maintaining programmatic integrity, allowing LAS to sustain survivor-centered litigation as a central function.

Looking ahead, LAS continues to engage a wider audience across the private sector and public-private partnerships, positioning resource development as a long-term institutional pillar rather than a short-term fundraising function.



Technology and Data Systems

Enhancing Access to Justice through Technology



Integrating Digital Infrastructure	Expanding 24/7 Inclusive Access	Maintaining Ethical Safeguards	Transitioning to Integrated Data
<p>NAZ Assist & Justice Hub CRM integration</p> <hr/> <p>Enterprise-wide digital systems for better access, data security, and analytics</p>	<p>Remote legal services for those unable to visit in person</p> <hr/> <p>Accessibility for people with disabilities, neurodiverse users, and those with hearing and speech impairments</p>	<p>Ensure ethical safeguards in digital platforms</p> <hr/> <p>Human oversight to uphold dignity and inclusivity</p>	<p>Integrated justice data architecture by 2026</p> <hr/> <p>Real-time tracking, evidence-led decision making, institutional transparency</p>



Law Department Government of Sindh

NAZ ASSIST

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Call now **0800-70806**

Law Department Government of Sindh

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Available 24/7 365 to provide you with the legal help you need

Call now **0800-70806**

Future-Proofing Justice Delivery

Future-proofing justice requires institutions to work together. LAS continues to strengthen collaboration with government departments, justice-sector institutions, civil society, and private sector actors, positioning access to justice as a shared public good rather than a parallel service. By aligning legal aid, prevention, and system reform with state functions, LAS is embedding justice delivery within institutional frameworks that can endure beyond projects and funding cycles.

Justice Hub Replicability and Institutionalisation

Building on the operational Justice Hub model in Sindh, LAS is advancing the replication of this approach into Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and at the federal level, positioning Justice Hubs as a scalable access-to-justice infrastructure. Justice Hubs are designed as permanent, district-level platforms that integrate legal advice, litigation support, mediation, legal awareness, and referrals in one place. By institutionalising this model, LAS is shifting access to justice from episodic intervention to predictable, community-anchored infrastructure that can be adopted and scaled through public-private collaboration.

Human Impact at Scale

Behind every system reform is a person whose life is shaped by justice delivered in time. Through its work, LAS has supported hundreds of women securing protection, families regaining custody and financial stability, and individuals accessing remedies without fear or stigma. Every day, new cases are registered, each representing not just a legal file but a household seeking safety, dignity, and continuity. By ensuring that justice remains accessible at moments of crisis and beyond, LAS's impact extends from individuals to families and communities- strengthening social and economic stability at scale.

LAS
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She trusted family Her child paid the price

Saira* left her three children with their maternal uncle while her husband was critically ill. After her husband passed away, her 8-year-old daughter begged not to stay there anymore.

The child revealed she had been sexually abused multiple times by her uncle. Saira immediately filed an FIR after learning the truth. Instead of support, family members defended the accused and attacked the child's character.



*pseudonym used to protect privacy


LAS
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Life imprisonment for sexual violence against a child. Courage is an act of Resistance

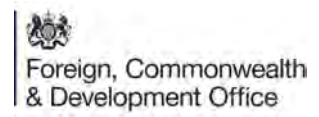
For nearly a month, a mother lived inside her home with fear. After discovering that her young daughter had been sexually assaulted by her step son, she was met with violence from her husband and sisters-in-law. They beat her, threatened her life, and used intimidation to force her silence.

But fear did not win. It did not silence her.

Despite serious risks to her own safety, the mother broke the silence and reported the crime, determined to protect her child and seek accountability.



Our Partners





Call to Connect

LAS invites continued collaboration with partners who share a commitment to durable, people-centred justice systems. Whether through institutional collaboration, CSR engagement, or public-private partnerships, there are multiple pathways to support access to justice as a foundational development priority.

For institutional collaboration and programmatic engagement, please contact: info@las.org.pk

For CSR partnerships and resource development engagement, please contact: rd@las.org.pk

Together, we can ensure that justice is not a one-time intervention, but a system that works- consistently, fairly, and when people need it most.

24/7 Helpline 0800 70806



For Free Legal Advice Call: 0800-70806

SCAN TO FIND YOUR NEAREST JUSTICE HUB

A Community-Centered Model for Accessible, Dignified Justice



DADU



SHAHEED
BENAZIRABAD



HYDERABAD



SANGHAR

BOOK OUR SERVICES



Karachi Office:

Legal Aid Society, block C,
First Floor, FTC building,
Shahrah-e-Faisal Karachi.

Islamabad Office:

13th Floor, State Life Building # 5,
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