



LAS and the PECHRA team on 31ST May, 2018 at the MOU signing at the LAO Head Office.

LAS entered into an MOU with Pechra, a transgender led organization working for the welfare of the transgender community in Sindh on 31st May, 2018 to work together for legal empowerment and provision of legal aid.

LAS entered into an MOU with Aahung on 25th May, 2018 with a resolve to partnering to work for protecting child rights and prevention of child sexual abuse in Sindh. Aahung was founded in 1995 and is a non profit organization working on improving access to quality sexual and reproductive health information and services in Pakistan.

LEGAL AID SOCIETY AND LEGAL AID OFFICE AT NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

LAO and LAS's pioneering work in the sustainable convict led prison paralegal program was presented at the conference titled Reimagining Justice: Realizing Human Rights through Legal Empowerment on April 26-27, 2018 at NYU School of Law in New York City. The conference was attended by panelists from more than 25 countries sharing latest legal empowerment methodologies and case studies. The Prison Paralegal Program was recognized and appreciated at the international forum for its scale-ability and the unique public private partnership with the Committee for the Welfare of Prisoners.

COMMEMORATION OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY – "RIGHTS OF WOMEN IN PRISON"

Commemoration of International Women's Day – "Rights of Women in Prison" was an event organised in the Women's Prison of Karachi on 6th April, 2018, through the joint efforts of UN WOMEN - Pakistan, Committee for the Welfare of Prisoners – Legal Aid Office (CWP-LAO), Women Development Department and Sindh Prison's Department. The female prisoners who are trained as paralegals by CWP-LAO presented a theatrical performance to showcase the power of legal awareness. The Country Representative, UN Women, Mr. Jamshed M. Kazi, Special Assistant to Sindh Chief Minister, Ms. Iram Khalid, Chairperson, National Commission on the Status of Women, Ms. Nuzhat Shirin, Secretary Women Development Department, Mr Haroon Ahmed Khan, Superintendent, Women Prison Ms. Sheeba Shah were present at the event.



Corporate Pakistan Group hosted an interactive discussion with Chairperson Justice Nasir Aslam Zahid on Saturday 2nd June, 2018 at the Movenpick Hotel in Karachi. Justice Zahid spoke about the current affairs of the the judiciary and the state of justice dispensation through courts across Pakistan.

Five years ago, an Indian teenage boy inadvertently crossed over the border from the province of Rajasthan in India into zealously guarded Pakistani territory. Some claim he was in search of water across the unpitying Rajastani dessert whilst others say he had quarreled with his mother and ran away from home. Whatever may have been the motive behind his careless wandering, the crux of the matter was that a 14 year old boy was arrested and sentenced to serve a year under the Foreigners Act by a court in the district of Umer Kot. This vagabond, Jetindra Arjunwara, somewhere along his predicament, developed sickle cell anemia. He was fighting for his life in the medical ward of the Malir District Prison when an inspection team from the Committee for the Welfare of

Prisoners stumbled across his frail condition in February of 2018. His situation was bleak and his life hung perilously at the mercy of the availability of the prison's lone

ambulance which would shift him to the civil hospital every few weeks for life saving blood transfusions. The prison officials raised their voice in his support and expressed their desire to see him repatriated. However, it had been four long years since his sentence had expired. He had been given not one but two consular visits from the Indian High Commission. Yet there was no news on the confirmation of his nationality. Social media was ablaze with videos of his mother and siblings pleading for his safe return. Journalists in India had also raised their voice in the past. But somewhere along the murky waters of state bureaucracy, maze like paper work and our goldfish like attention spans, his case had drowned into an abyss. After a few weeks of rigorous fact finding supported by the Home and Prison Department of the Government of Sindh, the Committee for the Welfare of Prisoners was able to raise the momentum surrounding his repatriation once again. Journalists and media personalities from both countries reopened his case and demanded the government's on both

sides to pull up their socks. The famous pop singing sensation, Shahzad Roy, who is also the UN's Goodwill Ambassador for Prisons in Pakistan, came forward and lobbied for Jitindra's repatriation. This noise created in his favour succeeded in oiling the state machinery. And so, what was not achieved in four years, was accomplished in under three months. Jitindra was flown to Lahore from Karachi and transported to the Waga Border by the Committee for Welfare of Prisoners in early May of this year. He went home after more than 5 years. This 'success story' can be celebrated as an example of effective partnership between civil society and governments on both sides. However there was something about Jitindra's ailing condition which assisted in raising

EDITORIAL
BY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
HAYA EMAAN ZAHID

empathy for him amongst otherwise apathetic masses and governments. There was also the risk of Jitindra losing his life in a Pakistani Prison which may have heightened escalating border tensions between the countries. There are many other unfortunate foreign inmates who are not as 'fortunate' as Jitindra was in this respect. In early June of this year our team interviewed Bangladeshi prisoners in the Central Prison in Karachi. Two of them have served 7 years in prison in excess of their completed sentences. They were sentenced to under one year of imprisonment as is standard with the charges under the Foreigners Act in most cases. Yet they were found languishing behind bars suffering serious mental health challenges due to the hopelessness and frustration they continued to endure. These people can provide addresses and telephone numbers of their loved ones back home. They can sketch out what their homes and neighbourhoods looked like. They can write their pleas for mercy and repatriation in their native Bengali language. Yet, their nationality has

remains to be confirmed. Once again civil society in both concerned countries will have to collectivize to raise their pleas to the apparently deaf ears of authorities. News articles will have to be published, talk shows will need to be done and letters will have to be addressed to officials red flagging the serious infringements of their human rights.

In the case of India-Pakistan cross-border prisoners, the process of verification of nationalities is a long drawn one which bafflingly kicks off after the entire prison sentence has been served. The countries signed an agreement in 2008 according to which consular access was to be granted within 90 days of the arrest. Sadly this is rarely the case. Such inmates suffer through absolutely no fault of their own unless the state machinery comes into action when prisoner exchanges are done as bargaining chips to de-escalate geo-political tensions.

There has been much talk in recent times of a revival of the India-Pakistan Judicial Committee on Prisoners which was formed in 2007 and comprised of Justice Nasir Aslam Zahid as one of the retired judges from Pakistan. The Committee was tasked with being a watchdog for such prisoners and conducted a number of bilateral visits to inspect and visits each other's prisons. This Committee must be revived, and its recommendations implemented. Until then, such foreign prisoners will continue to suffer and will remain at the mercy of oscillating levels of empathy that can be aroused by activists across countries.



Justice Zahid seeing of Jetindra Arjunwara at the Jinnah International Airport in Karachi.



Ms. Maliha Zia, Associate Director at the Legal Aid Society and Legal Aid Office was notified as a member of the **first Domestic Violence Commission** established under Section 3 of the Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Rules, 2015 which is chaired by the Minister for Women's Development.

LECTIONS EDUCATION AND MPOWERMENT

Maleeha Azhar - Program Manager

Pakistan has sadly missed its millennium goals in the area of uplifting the country's literacy rate which has plummeted from 60% to 58% as per the latest reports of UNESCO. The widening disparity between the two ends of a status based education system continue to disenfranchise those who cannot afford the luxury of private schooling. Public sector schools run by the government or city district government remain in more or less the same conditions as we approach the next general elections. 60% of our population comprises of our youth and this 'youth-explosion' needs to be honed so that it can develop into skilled and gainfully employed labour helping the country come out from the existing economic crisis it finds itself in. But the standard of schooling provided in higher tier private schools is a dream for most middle class families. Whilst projects and institutes such as The Garage School, Reading Room Project, TCF Schools, Zindagi Trust Schools, Falcon Grammar School and Dawood Public School make inroads with subsidised fee structures, not everyone can afford good quality private schooling. When one takes a look at the background of youth that comes into conflict with the law, our research indicates that only **41.6%** had been to a primary school before being incarcerated or being arrested by police. This leads credence to the proposition that literacy contributes to law-abiding behaviour. To fill this void, the Legal Aid Society in collaboration with the Prison Department, SAHEE and Open Society Foundation initiated a Basic and Legal Literacy Project in the Juvenile Youthful Offenders Industrial School in Karachi in

December, 2017. The objective of the project is to provide basic education along with legal education. The youth in the prisons realizes the importance of being educated, one quoted in an interview, "Whatever I learn before coming to the prison, I didn't remember properly, but while attending the classes, I am trying to recall it. I will continue my education after going out of the prison". The program remains heavily subscribed due to the quality of teaching and the methodology that is employed which was in stark contrast to the government appointed teachers visiting the prison. This has amounted to privatising education even in the prison domain whereas effort has to be made to bring the public provision of this at par with what is required. The project has proved that basic literacy skills can be imparted within a 4 month crash course for children between the ages of 15 – 18 years. The learning outcomes indicate that the children can read and write and count and understand what is going around them in their cases. But there are an estimated 22 million children of school going age who are out of school as we approach the general elections of 2018. Tall claims and slogans will be raised by hopeful electables vying for your precious vote. But how many who include education as a priority are sincere about activating the human agency of the people within a system of democracy in which the number-game depends on pools of illiterate vote banks.



Advocate Noor Us Saba conducting a legal literacy class with juveniles in Prison.

TRAINING OF LEGAL ADVISORS

Training 3

Date: 5th April 2018 *Topic: Violence against Women: Legislation & its Implementation*

Trainer: Ms. Sara Malkani, Advocacy Advisor Asia, Center for Reproductive Rights, Founder, Woman Lawyers Association & Advocate, High Court, Pakistan.

The discussion focused on women-specific legislation in light of the amendment in laws and the rights they afford women particularly related to domestic violence, family law and sexual harassment.



Training 4

Date: 26th April 2018 *Topic: Service Law: Theory and in Practice*

Trainer: Mr. Malik Muhammad Aqil Awan, former Judge of the Sindh High Court and Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of Pakistan

The service law session was given by a practitioner of the labour and service laws. The participants benefited from Mr. Awan's experiences arguing cases before the courts and learnt about the recent IRA 2012 which regulates matters of inter-provincial establishments.

Training 5

Date: 15th May 2018 *Topic: Revenue Law*

Trainer Mr. Justice Syed Ali Aslam Jafri, former Judge of the Sindh High Court and Consultant, Sindh Judicial Academy

The Revenue law session was relevant for the queries received by LACC relating to agricultural tax, share of land and the Revenue Authority. The history of revenue law, its current amendments and their application in cases of dispute were all tackled.



SUCCESS STORY FROM NAGAR WASAN TALUKA IN HYDERABAD DISTRICT

Aliya Azhar - Senior Program Officer

Manju Bibi was married to Suresh Kohli. They started their married life on a happy note but after some time differences started to create complications between them. Manju left the marital home and shifted back to her parent's house. Manju's family through the local panchayat tried to contact Suresh's family to resolve the dispute amicably however they did not agree. Matters escalated and Suresh proceeded to file for separation. **He came to the village where Manju was residing with her family to complete the formalities in this regard but was approached by a focal person who suggested that the couple try to resolve their issues through mediation or legal support from the Legal Aid Society in Hyderabad.** Perhaps there was a change of heart and Suresh approached the LAS

office on 27th March, 2018 for mediation. At first, due to cultural practices Manju did not appear in person for the mediation sessions and sent her father and brother to represent her best interests. The LAS team pointed out that her presence was desirable so she could make informed decisions and her consent to a possible settlement could be gauged. As a result of constant efforts of our staff and a deep sense of trust between the community and the LAS, an agreement was entered into between the two on 20th April, 2018. Conditions included an undertaking by Suresh that he would not restrict Manju from visiting or talking her parents and he would not insult her and would give her the utmost respect. In the event of breach of the agreement Manju would be entitled to 50,000 rupees and would file for separation.

THIS WAS THE FIRST CASE OF A SUCCESSFUL MEDIATION BY THE LAS TEAM IN HYDERABAD.



MENTAL HEALTH OF PRISONERS

Hiba Zaheer- Research Associate

Prison is primarily intended as a punishment for criminal acts. It is an establishment which aims to punish those who commit crime, protect the public from crime and criminals, and reform criminals into law abiding citizens, thus reduce re-offending. It has however, been reported that imprisonment increases vulnerabilities and heightens mental ill health. Studies across a variety of counties have reported that the prevalence of mental illness in prison far exceeds that of the general population. It is of paramount importance that administrative authorities be made aware of the disastrous implications of the poor mental health of prisoners, and the negative impact of not providing appropriate physical and mental health facilities to inmates, which may well cripple their social and mental faculties.

The overall prevalence of anxiety and depressive disorders in the Pakistani population is reported to be 34%. Within this context, LAO commissioned Sehat Kahaani to conduct a psychiatric assessment of all women prisoners within Karachi Women's Prison with a view to making a contribution to the literature and research in this area. The baseline analysed women's mental health with a focus on determining prevalence of psychiatric disorders among incarcerated women. The study confirms the high prevalence of psychiatric disorders amongst female prisoners, highlighting the need for interventions aimed at mental health. The psychiatric assessment was conducted using M.I.N.I International Neuropsychiatric Interview. M.I.N.I is a short, structured diagnostic interview which is used worldwide. Data collection was conducted with a sample of 140 females (132 inmates and 8 prison guards) in June 2017. Using the baseline data collected, LAO is finalising a study which describes the state of mental health in Karachi Women's Prison (using descriptive statistics), illustrates relationships between mental health and various variables (using a logistic regression analysis) and proposes strategies/recommendations for policy and practice.

Results showed that over 65% of the sample met the criteria for one or more psychiatric disorder. The most common disorders were Major Depressive Episode, Suicidality, Generalised Anxiety Disorder, Panic Disorder and Posttraumatic Stress Disorder. Major Depressive Episode was the most prevalent major mental disorder. Overall, rates for depression and anxiety were higher than general population rates. Substance Abuse and Dependency Disorders (1.4 %) as well as Eating Disorders were least prevalent in the sample.

A crude comparison with available data on overall prevalence rates for anxiety and depression in Pakistan suggested that depressive and anxious disorders were higher in this sample (approximately 50.0 %) than in the general population. This study was conducted in the Women's Prison Karachi however there is no reason why these results may vary in the other three women's prisons. It can be said that the results may reflect increasing depression as those prisons located in interior Sindh where access to education, opportunities and of equal rights is considered of less significance for women. Their crime and incarceration leads to further isolation and stigma in their communities.

The instinct of survival is perhaps the most powerful drive in human beings. Our forefathers have since the days of primordial existence, fought to stay alive by fighting or running away from immediate threats. Unfortunately even today survival for so many is about putting a roof over your head, clothes on your naked body or food on the table. But the kind of survival mechanisms one has to develop when ones liberty is curtailed indicate a different kind of battle for existence. This is the case of the pursuit of women who are imprisoned in Karachi Central Prison's Women facility; those women who are ostracized socially and economically with little to no chance of a free, fair and expeditious trial. The majority of women prisoners are under trial therefore, they are presumed to be innocent until proven guilty by a court of law and so they are no different in many ways from the intended reader of this article nor the author of this article.

There is no doubt that women in our society have always been disadvantaged whether that is in terms of receiving smaller portions of food whilst growing up, or substandard medical care or simply being pulled out of school earlier than their male counterparts. From the onset, their chances at developing as economically productive and independent beings are curtailed so as to keep them shackled into submissive and subservient roles suiting the prevailing patriarchal system in place. In comparison to other developed countries, women in Pakistan are doomed by being forced to marry at earlier ages, are obligated to have more children than they may want, suffer higher rates of maternal mortality and work longer hours with little recognition and compensation. Much like women everywhere else though, Pakistani women continue to be vulnerable to violence and harassment both at home and in the outside space. From birth, the life of the average Pakistani woman is characterized by her economic, social, cultural and political subordination. Most importantly our sexist norms and misogynistic values continue to worsen the situation. So how does the situation fare for such already disadvantaged women when you put them, wrongfully, behind bars or when an already subjugated woman is trapped in her first encounter with the criminal justice system?

The purpose of prisons, or corrections as the developed world terminology goes, is to provide rehabilitation services to prisoners so that they can lead dignified and law abiding lives after their release. Our prisons are a far cry away from being places of custody, control and such utopian standards of 'care' due to the archaic legislative framework that we inherited from our colonial past. However many inroads have been made to the credit of the Prisons Department and Government of

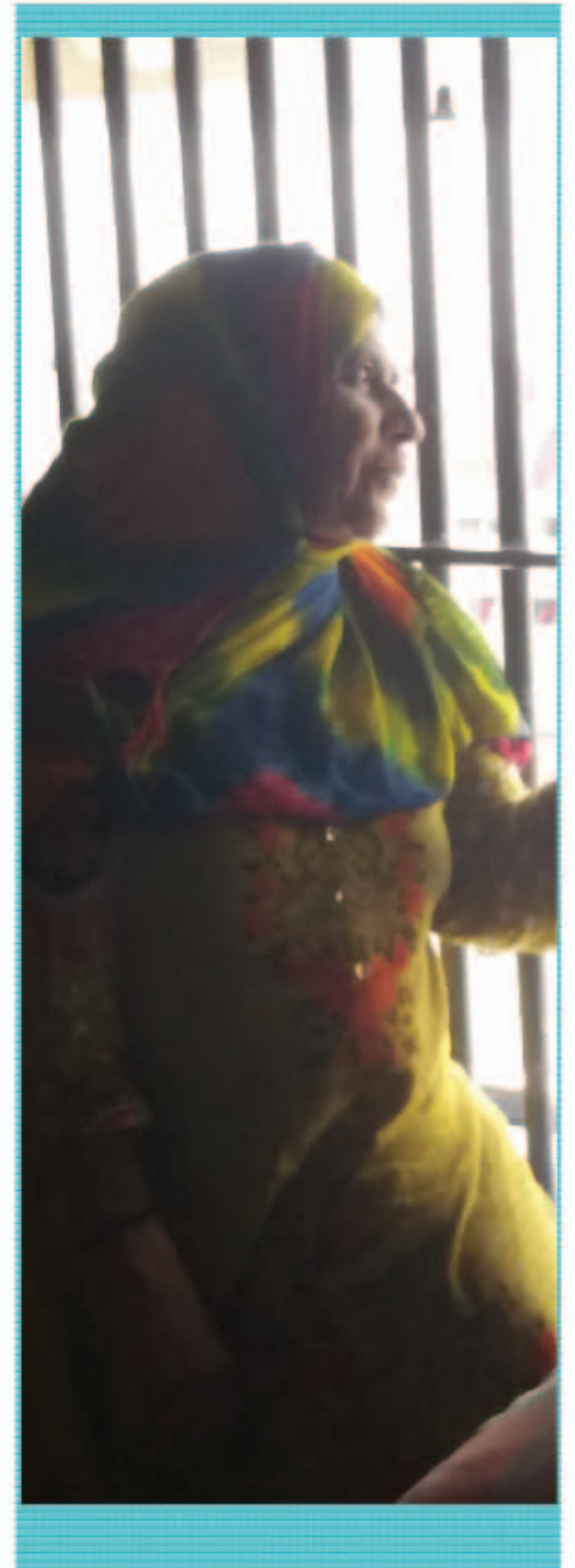


The Survival of Women Prisoners

Sana Sharif -
Senior Program Officer

Sindh however, much remains to be done. We may pride ourselves in having a plethora of women specific and women friendly laws on statute books but the state is failing to implement the laws and is failing to ensure women do not end up in prison. The mind set of law enforcement and custodial officers requires a paradigm shift when handling females in the criminal justice space. Women who are either in police custody or in prison wards are in extremely vulnerable positions where the imbalance of power between the detainer and detainee is at its highest.

After working in prisons for many months, sitting with female prisoners on a daily basis, hearing countless narratives of despair, frustration and struggle, it is not possible to pen down and accurately describe the physical and mental trauma that they have undergone or continue to suffer from. One can however make a feeble attempt to elucidate the situation by putting forward empirical evidence. The Legal Aid Office along with its partner Sehat Kahani conducted a baseline for assessing the mental health status of female prisoners in Women's Prison Karachi. The study revealed that 43.6% of women in prisons suffered from Major Depressive Disorders. Women prisoners who have no choice but to reside inside prisons with their children or those who have had to cut off from their children



suffer exacerbated psychological issues. At present there are 18 mothers who reside with their children inside the prison and have no choice but to drag their offspring, under the tender age of 9, with them through the protracted trial and incarceration process and experience.

It is important for these women to see the light at the end of the tunnel. But to gain the courage and resilience to keep walking through this tunnel, they require certain tools for coping. A majority of women who come into conflict with the law are illiterate and unaware of their rights and entitlements and safeguards that the law provides.

A profiling study conducted by LAO provides that 71% of women in prisons were illiterate. As such, even if laws remain unimplemented, the intended beneficiaries are in the dark and hence are unable to collectivize and raise their voice to demand what is rightly their entitlement.

Whilst incarcerated, the knowledge of law could provide a beacon of hope for them to assist them in battling their court cases and in understanding the processes and obstacles that lie in the way to obtaining their freedom. To this end, female convicts have commenced a convict lead paralegal program which provides basic legal knowledge to new prison admissions. The program commenced in January 2018 and has trained 56 new female prisoners to date and has provided them with information which can help them in their pending court cases.

The stigma attached to them after release continues to plague them in their quest to start over despite the very many being acquitted on merit. There is a need for social welfare departments and officials to fill in this gap to assist in running programs for the reintegration of such women. Most of the women inmates have poor financial backgrounds and are implicated in crimes such as murder, kidnapping for ransom, drug trafficking and theft or robbery. Many of them are charged by their male counterparts in fabricated cases due to familial disputes. As such, if they have no viable option to turn to after release, recidivism rates are likely to increase.



HIGHLIGHTS OF SUCCESS FROM

The LEGAL AID SOCIETY project AND EMPOWERMENT DESK

Legal Advisory Call Center

The Legal Advisory Call Center received **3,038** registered calls in this quarter and provided these callers with legal advice and information on criminal, civil and public service matters.

Training on Mediation Skills:

The Legal Aid Society in collaboration with Sindh Judicial Academy, under its ADR project, is working to train certified mediators. LAS trained **14** Saalis Members (Nominated through High Court Notification) in this quarter on Mediation Skills and Human Rights, Vulnerability and Society.



Saalis training at the SJA from 9th to 12th May

Basic Literacy Project

The Legal Aid Society in collaboration with Open Society Foundation and Sindh Prisons Department is working to establish a sustainable juvenile literacy program in a young offenders / juvenile detention facility in Sindh which improves the basic literacy and legal consciousness of youth in the juvenile justice system. LAS launched a short documentary of 3 mins on its Basic Literacy Program over social media on May 25, 2018.

(<https://www.facebook.com/LegalAidSocietyPakistan/videos/1018570274974688/>)

Liaison with Offices of the Federal Ombudsman

The Field Teams of Karachi, Hyderabad, Larkana, Khairpur and Sukkur conducted meetings with Offices of the Federal and Provincial Ombudsman. Teams oriented them about the ADR Project and upcoming awareness clinics on the functions of Ombudsman.



Alternative Dispute Resolution Awareness Clinics:

The field teams have conducted **72** awareness clinics with different communities to create awareness on Alternative Dispute Resolution methods in which **35** clinics were conducted with Union Councils. These Clinics were attended by **1971** beneficiaries.



Legal Aid and Representation

LAS has provided free legal representation in courts to **69** community members including **59** females and **1** transgender person.

Liaison with District Judiciary

The Legal Aid Society met with District and Sessions Judges of Karachi West, South and Central. LAS presented its research paper on Delays in the Delivery Of Justice in Civil Cases: Empirical Evidence from Four Judicial Districts in Sindh to the Judges and discussed the Alternative Dispute Resolution Methods for the cases which fall into the criteria of Small Claims and Minor Offences Ordinance 2002.



An important aspect of any project is measuring its impact and reflecting upon ways to improve the same. The Legal Aid Society has been evaluating the impact of its flagship project the Legal Advisory Call Center (LACC) during this quarter. The aim of the advisory call center is to provide callers with the information and the means to access justice on their own without necessitating the need to approach a lawyer where the same is possible. In fact, registered callers pursuing matters by themselves not only call back from time to time with questions relating to the progress of their case but also encourage friends and family members to call the LACC for their legal issues.

TAKING STOCK OF LEGAL NEEDS: WHAT ARE CALLERS WHO DIAL THE 0800-70806 TOLL FREE HELPLINE REALLY SAYING?

Naima Qamar- *Research Associate*

Callers from April and May 2018 were called back to assess the value of the toll free helpline service and to measure the increase in legal awareness. It was found that in civil cases, family law remains the most common issue affecting people. This includes the recovery of dower and maintenance along with khula. Guardianship and custody was the third most recurring issue faced by female callers across Pakistan. It is for these issues more than any other that women approach the courts when they have to resort to approaching the formal system for their problems. For men, they too often call to inquire about the length of time they have to maintain their children as well as to call to ask about the procedure to divorce their spouse or to marry a second wife. In family matters too, men call on behalf of their sisters or cousins when the family matter starts to

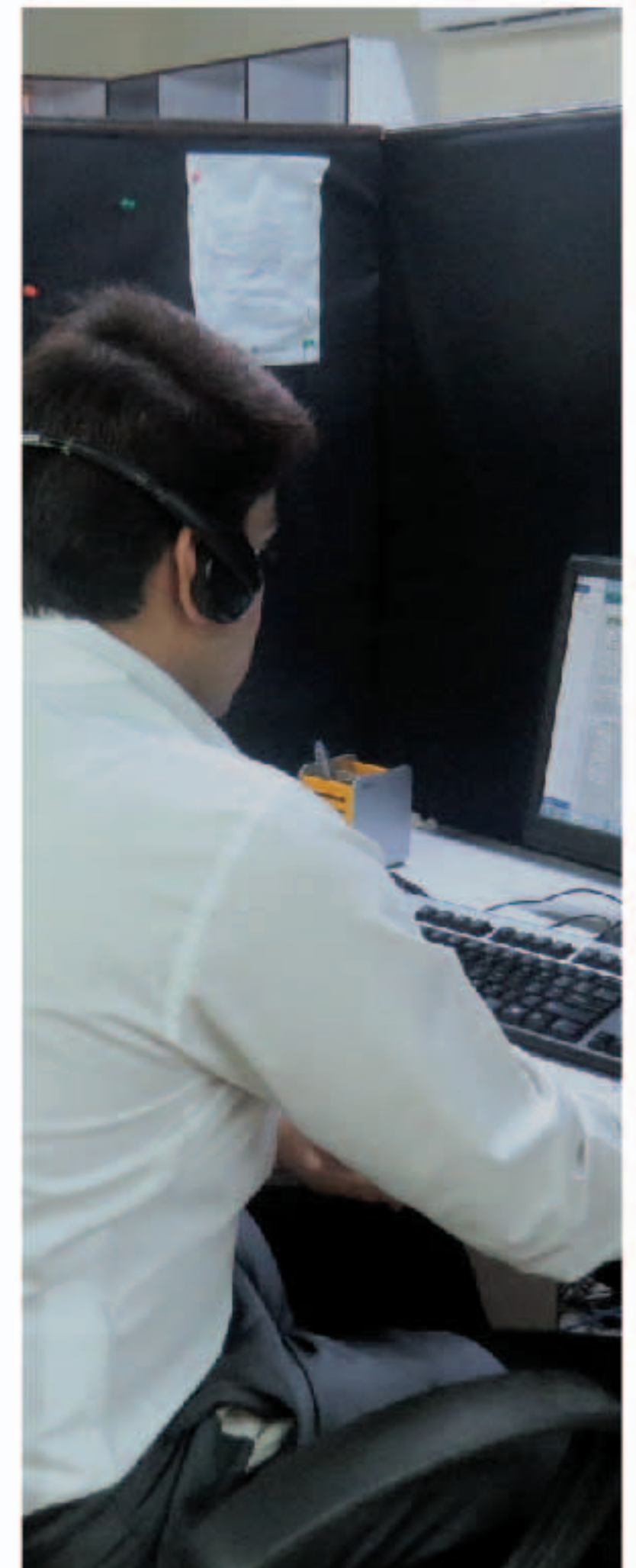
transcend into a matter of criminal nature. This is in domestic violence cases or when criminal intimidation is used to force women to abandon their claims for recovery of dowry or to the custody of children who are kidnapped by ex-husbands. In all such cases, women are willing to go to any lengths to pursue justice. Women callers facing these issues are also the ones who became a part of our success stories as they navigate their way to fight for their rights. Similarly, related to family issues, couples who marry of their free-will call to seek remedies against threats and harassment from their families and were able to file harassment petitions for their safety and informed the police of their situation after the advice they received.

In criminal cases, it is the FIR, bail and illegal detention-related queries that are mostly received. It is a norm for the police stations to refuse to lodge an FIR to avoid extra paper-work and the callers frequently are directed to lodge a complaint under section 22-A of the Criminal Procedure Code with the Magistrate in order to have their FIRs

lodged. Often times people report having relatives being taken away by the police or other security agencies and not being presented before the courts. In our feedback calls the success was where the callers were able to lodge FIRs through the Magistrate and have their claims sorted out. This quarter we were also able to find more women called for criminal related queries such as domestic violence, inheritance deprivation and for kidnapped family members.

While NADRA issues and excessive billing by KESC and WAPDA remain the most important issues in public service, women callers were not encouraged to pursue these matters. This could be due to the non-urgency of these matters which is at contrast to the urgent issues of custody of children. Male callers were not able to solve their problems, their experience at NADRA or with District Commissioners was unhelpful. It was a rare case when officials of WAPDA looked into an excessive charges complaint and removed them. This reflects especially poorly on state bodies as citizenship rights and electricity provision are very basic concerns affecting citizens on a daily basis and their negligent performance impacts the way people perceive their government and state authorities.

The feedback calls also aimed to assess the experience of the citizens with state institutions. It was found that the experience in courts was satisfactory but that with the police it is improving. Success stories were received this quarter which included the police helping citizens in lodging non-cognizable reports of misplaced CNICs, protecting women receiving death threats, assisting in recovery of money in cases of fraud as well as in one case where the SSP responded positively to a complaint against traffic police for beating up a driver and demanding bribe. Such assistance not only encourages people to report crime but also motivates them to be more conscientious citizens. The Legal Aid Society by assessing feedback not only measures the legal empowerment of the people but also gauges responsiveness of state institutions and efficiency in service delivery.





Celebration of Eid Millan Gatherings with Prisoners

Prison Officials, LAO team members and prison paralegals celebrated Eid-ul-Fitr at Central Prison Karachi, Hyderabad and Women Prisons and YOIS Larkana and Sukkur.

- 518 criminal cases have been disposed of before courts
- LAO lawyers represented under trial prisoners in 769 cases across 21 prisons of Sindh
- 187 applications for bail have granted for LAO clients

Mental Health Clinics for Women Inmates

CWP-LAO, through partnership with Sehat Kahani (SK), started psychological healthcare facilities for women inmates in Women's Prison Karachi. Psychologists conduct visits twice a week and provide counseling to women inmates.



Partnering with Essa Laboratory for Legal Empowerment

Legal Aid Office/ Legal Aid Society organized an awareness and empowerment session at DR. ESSA LABORATORY on Saturday, June 2nd, 2018. The awareness session aimed to explain the role of law in daily life, fundamental rights of a citizen and provided an introduction to Alternative Dispute Resolution specifically engaging with the office of the ombudsman for maladministration related grievances.



HIGHLIGHTS OF SUCCESS FROM The LEGAL AID OFFICE project AND EMPOWERMENT DESK



Paralegal Certificate Award Ceremony and Theatrical Performance

Committee for the Welfare of Prisoners - Legal Aid Office with the support of Prison Department organized Paralegal Certificates award ceremonies in Central Prison of Karachi, Sukkur and Hyderabad.

At Central Prison Karachi, the paralegals showcased the power of legal awareness through a theatrical performance and other prisoners presented songs and displayed their art work.

Inauguration of Gymnasium at the Women's Prison Karachi

The Committee for the Welfare of Prisoners with the support of the Women's Development Department and Sindh Prisons has set up a gymnasium for female prisoners in Karachi on 27 June 2018. The facility will also provide professional coaching and physical training to the prisoners.



UN Goodwill Ambassador for Prisons Mr. Shezad Roy distributed certificates to the graduating convicts.

Expanding the Prisoner Lead Paralegal Program in Central Prisons Hyderabad and Sukkur

The Committee for the Welfare of Prisoners - Legal Aid Office (CWP- LAO) with the collaboration of Home Department, Government of Sindh has successfully completed the Prison Paralegal Training Program (Capacity Development Program) for 52 convicted prisoners in Central Prison Hyderabad and Sukkur who would further legal literacy among under trial prisoners.



HEAD OFFICE:

Spanish Homes, Mezzanine Floor, Plot No. 13/A, D.H.A., Phase 1, Karachi.

PHONE:

+92-21-99266011-4 Fax: +9221-99266015
LACC: 0800-70806

Email:

info@lao.org.pk,
laocpkhi@hotmail.com

Website:

www.lao.org.pk
@LegalAidSocietyPakistan
@LegalAidOfficePakistan