



NEWSLETTER

APRIL-JUNE 2019

Issue No. 08

THE 8TH ASIA PRO BONO CONFERENCE IN NEPAL

“JUSTICE FOR ALL: EMPOWER –
ENGAGE – SUSTAIN”



Asia Pro Bono Conference (“APBC”) (September 13 – 15), organized by a network consortium from throughout Asia and globally, is the largest annual gathering of persons supporting and engaged in access to justice, pro bono and public interest law in Asia. This year’s Conference and Exchange are being guided and organized, in part, by a South Asia regional organizing committee and the Legal Aid Society (“LAS”) is proud to be a member of this committee. The conference is being held in Kathmandu, Nepal and will celebrate and emphasize pro bono legal work, access to justice and legal empowerment initiatives, as well as discuss ways to further the outreach of pro bono ethos and impact in Asia and around the Globe. The first two days are the core APBC proceedings, while the Saturday will focus on community capacity building, teaching and the educational aspects of pro bono work, as well as clinical learning for tertiary students and future practitioners. Whether you are a legal practitioner, academic, student, in business, government or the non-profit sector, your participation and support is welcomed. We invite you to participate in this year’s conference and become part of the Asia pro bono movement.

For more details please visit :

<https://www.probonoconference.org>

REMAND HOME VISIT

On 9th May, 2019 Justice Nasir Aslam Zahid, Chairperson of the Committee for the Welfare of Prisoners – Legal Aid Office (“CWP-LAO”) along with Mr Ghanwar Leghari, Secretary Prisons, Home Department visited the Remand Home in Karachi which accommodates juveniles who are under 15 years of age. The aim of this visit was to conduct interviews and assess the need for legal aid. Justice Nasir Aslam Zahid during his visit stated that CWP-LAO is trying to fulfill its mandate of assisting adult prisoners and juveniles and would also focus on ensuring the welfare of the children. Sports kits and clothing items were also donated during the visit.

LAS SHORTLISTED FOR WORLD JUSTICE CHALLENGE



World Justice
Project

The LAS Alternative Dispute Resolution (“ADR”) Project was shortlisted as a finalist in the World Justice Challenge by the World Justice Project at the World Justice Forum (“WJF”) which was held at the Hague, Netherlands between April 29 and May 2, 2019. The WJF is a premier international event for rule of law which brings together global and community leaders so they can share insights, explore strategies, and develop solutions for advancing peace, equity, and opportunity. The World Justice Challenge 2019 is a competition to identify, recognize, and promote good practices and successful solutions to improve access to justice. According to research conducted by the World Justice Project, more than 50% of people around the world have experienced a legal problem in the past two years alone, and justice systems are failing them. Identifying and promoting good practices and successful solutions is essential to narrowing the justice gap. LAS ADR Project seeks to reduce the burden on the courts in Pakistan and provides speedy justice through the utilization of formal and semi-formal ADR mechanisms.

EDITORIAL

BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
HAYA EMAAN ZAHID

For decades Sindh's correctional philosophy was marred by draconian colonial precepts of 'control' and 'punishment'. However, it seems that the shackles of the dead past may finally have been undone with the passage of the Sindh Prisons and Corrections Services Act of 2019. On 17th May, 2019, the Sindh Assembly ceremoniously repealed the Prisons Act of 1894 along with its counterpart, the Prisoners Act of 1900. In rather glorious terms, representatives of the Government of Sindh announced that they had set the wheels in motion for bringing to the fore formerly neglected concepts of rehabilitation and reintegration. The law starts off with an overriding purpose clause which was largely absent in the previous framework. It provides the prison system's objective is to contribute to the maintenance and protection of a just, peaceful and safe society by enforcing the orders of the courts, confining prisoners in safe and secure custody and in assisting the welfare and rehabilitation of prisoners and their reintegration into society. This declaration clearly realigns the penal philosophy away from punishment; in strictly penal terms; towards 21st century correctional thinking as conceived under the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners ("the Mandela Rules") which were adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 17th December, 2015. The new law provides for a Directorate of Corrections which appears impressive at first glance unless one is acquainted with the pathetic realities of Sindh's existing Probation and Parole Directorate.

The purpose clause is followed by a set of 8 basic principles which shall govern the treatment of prisoners and will provide interpretive guidance for the jurisprudence around this law to develop. With over 80% of Sindh's prisoners being under-trial, the high-water mark of the law is the explicit recognition that under trial prisoners; now rebranded as 'Unsentenced Prisoners'; shall retain the rights and privileges as members of civil society and shall be entitled to maintain their original lifestyle as far as is possible. A Prison Policy Board, headed by a Minister or Special Assistant to the Chief Minister shall be notified which shall be responsible for developing and designing rehabilitation policies and post-release reintegration plans for prisoners. The Board shall advise the Government on policy matters related to the management, development and administration of the prison service. The creation of this forum seems to recognize the gap in the existing set up in which prison policy development was taken up in a rather ad-hoc manner by the Home Department; where policy debates and positive actions were largely powered by directives from the Supreme Court and High Court. The law is cognizant of recent Supreme Court directives on improving the living conditions of prisoners and opening up prison management for more transparency.

It provides for the notification of oversight committees for every prison that shall oversee the welfare of prisoners, philanthropic initiatives, rehabilitation programs and monitoring of prison administration. It is notable to mention that such oversight committees have already been notified and are active in certain districts. Sindh's prison staff largely remains demoralized and overworked with hundreds of vacancies remaining unfilled since 2015. A detailed scheme of sanctions and penalties is provided in the new law for ensuring the discipline of prison staff with very little being said to balance this with the recognition of the importance of their role in executing the overall corrections mandate. What remains new is the mention of training institutes for the Service which was omitted until now. Hopefully this recognition will yield investment and budgetary allocations for enhancing the capacities of staff and will lead to enhanced motivation amongst the cadre. The dismal reality at present is that the tone of rehabilitation will be set by prison guards and wardens who are themselves most likely overworked; underpaid and in some cases; struggling for better access to healthcare and food just as the prisoners who are kept under their supervision and control. Whilst the previous scheme, under its rules, provided for the separation of heinous offenders from petty offenders, male from female prisoners, civil from criminal prisoners, the new statute makes valuable additions by mandating the separation of transgendered prisoners and female prisoners who have children in custody with them from other female prisoners and prisoners suffering from communicable diseases. Solitary confinement; labelled as 'separate confinement'; can be imposed for maintaining the discipline of the prison and for ensuring the security of prisoners but shall no longer disentitle the prisoner from other privileges. Prisoners are still classified, in rather colonial and offensive terms as either belonging to a 'Better Class' or a 'Common Class'. The Committee for the Welfare of Prisoners, which has been working since 2004 under the Chairpersonship of Justice Nasir Aslam Zahid (former Chief Justice of Sindh) and is colloquially known as the Legal Aid Office Project through a Home Department notification, has been provided statutory footing. The Committee, supported by the Government, has to its credit provided 15,670 prisoners with legal representation free of cost and currently serves through panels of lawyers in 25 prisons in Sindh.

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Sindh Legal Advisory Call Center In
Partnership with the Law Department
Government of Sindh

Other notable linkages have been made in the law with Sindh Technical Education & Vocational Training Authority (“STEVTA”) and existing funding schemes run by the Government for the overall betterment of prisoners. Sole bread winners who are imprisoned will be connected and prioritized by the Service with available Government funding schemes. Early discharges can be provided where convicted prisoners are incapacitated or found to be suffering from incurable diseases or where a female prisoner has attained the age of 60 and a male prisoner the age of 65 and is found to be infirm or where they have completed half of their sentence and exhibit the capability to reform and lead law abiding lives. This will come as a relief to hundreds of prisoners languishing across the 28 prisons in Sindh and appears to be a clause that will provide across the board relief. In contrast to this, a scheme of ‘authorised absences’ is fleshed out for both sentenced and unsentenced prisoners alike for the purposes of seeking medical treatment, participating in educational exams and community service and attending to emergencies such as funerals. Whilst some critics may expand upon the potentials for misuse under this scheme, it is notable to mention the prioritisation of prisoners who are mothers and those who are under the age of 18 as they are awarded with special mention for the entitlement of such authorised absences. The new Prison Act provides for the set up of an implementation committee under the control of the Home Department that will be tasked to ensure compliance within a period of one year. Whilst Sindh is the first province to repeal and replace the parent act of 1894, KPK has chosen to revise its jail manual, which is a scheme of 1,250 rules which govern the day to day management of prisons. Sindh can rightly be credited with being the first province to revamp the centuries old enabling Act to set the tone for a revised penal and corrections philosophy but the real challenge lies ahead in revising the prison rules which will determine the extent to which day to day life changes for prisoners and those that are entrusted with their custody. However, there is no doubt that the Sindh Prisons and Corrections Services Act of 2019 is a step in the right direction towards a long journey; and one for which the legislators must be congratulated for.

TRAINING DESK

Maleeha Azhar - Program Manager

TRAINING ON EFFECTIVE HANDLING OF JUVENILES AND THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM ACT, 2018

Maleeha Azhar - Program Manager

The LAS organized a training for officials from the Prison, Police, Prosecution and Probation Departments on Effective Handling of Juveniles and on the Juvenile Justice System Act, 2018. The training was held on 27th April 2019 in Karachi and was specially designed to cater to the need of state actors in an integrated manner. The training was organized under the project of Basic and Legal Literacy Initiative for Juveniles in Sindh. LAS provided a briefing to the participants about its initiative for juveniles to provide legal help at their first entry point when they enter into a conflict with law. For this purpose, LAS has piloted a Help Desk in one Police Station of Karachi in District East with the name of a “Legal

Empowerment Help Desk (“LED”). The purpose of this Desk is not only to provide first hand legal information and help to juveniles (victim and accused both) but also to help and facilitate the police in the matters related to juveniles. The LED started its function in the month of March, 2019 and has to date facilitated 24 citizens who have been accused of either beggary or theft or are victims. The training session was conducted by Ms. Noreen Lalwani and Mr. Shehneel Gill of Aahung and Mr. Iqbal Detho.



The Training was concluded with a closing note delivered by Justice Nasir Aslam Zahid, Chairperson of LAS, who appreciated the work of departments in difficult conditions and distributed the certificates among participants.

AN OVERVIEW OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ADR 13th APRIL 2019

LAS started a Project on ADR in Sindh in September 2016. A key outcome of the Project was to develop the capacity of the newly notified cadre of ADR professionals the Salis Committee Members. **LAS trained 218 Salis members from 2016 to 2018 through 13 batches of training.** These trainings were organized in collaboration with the Sindh Judicial Academy (“SJA”), Pakistan Mediators Association and National Center for Dispute Resolution. One of the primary aims of the Conference which was held in April, 2019 was to bring together these trained Salis on one platform. LAS in collaboration with the SJA organized a One (1) Day International Conference on ADR on 13th April, 2019.



The purpose of this Conference was to highlight the salient features of newly passed law “The Code of Civil Procedure (Sindh Amendment) Act, 2019” (“CPC (Sindh Amendment) Act, 2019”) drafted by LAS, SJA and ADR practitioner Ms. Naveen Merchant which was passed by the Sindh Assembly in 30th January, 2019, and to provide a platform to the accredited Salis members to exchange ideas and learn from National and International best practices of ADR. The Conference was attended by more than 350 members from the Judiciary, Law Firms, and Individual Legal Practitioners, Prosecutors, members of Judicial Academies, members of Civil Society, Salis Members, Educationists, Law Schools and Media Officials. Mr. Justice Irfan Saadat Khan, Senior Puisine Judge of the Sindh High Court was the Chief Guest. The Conference was also attended by the Advisor for Law, Barrister Murtaza Wahab.

The Conference was designed and conducted in 3 sections. The first section covered the Advances in ADR in Pakistan, where LAS and SJA both provided a briefing to the participants. Justice Nasir Aslam Zahid, Chairperson of LAS, inaugurated the Conference. He referred to the Conference as a special gathering to celebrate the meaningful policy and legislative reforms in the subject matter of ADR in Sindh, and also acknowledged that it was the first time any conference brought together a newly devised cadre of ADR professionals on one platform. Justice Arif Khilji, Director General of SJA, shared the advances made by the SJA In terms of moving towards becoming a fully functional Mediation Center. Barrister Murtaza Wahab, Law Advisor of Sindh Government highlighted the salient features of the newly amended CPC. He said, **“Sindh is the first province to formalize ADR with the amendment of section 89-A with each and every guideline being set out for the Salis mechanism to function”.** He further mentioned that the lawmakers had done their part in providing greater and speedier access to justice for litigants; it was up to the actors of the Justice System to actively implement the law. The second section of the Conference covered the successes and challenges related to ADR at different levels. Additional District & Sessions Judge Karachi West, Field Teams of LAS from Hyderabad (who diverted and assisted more than 180 cases from litigation to ADR Mechanisms), Mediation Experts and Accredited Salis members shared their experiences, challenges and successes. The last section of the Conference was on “National and International Best Practices of ADR”. LAS especially invited **Mr. Umut Ilhan Durmusoglu, Head of Department of Mediation, General Directorate of Law and Legislation, Ministry of Justice, Istanbul, Turkey and Ms. Asiyan Suleymanoglu Accredited Mediator,** two Turkish guests, as speakers to share the best practices of ADR and also how they are able to achieve it. Justice Ghulam Rabbani, Former Judge Supreme Court of Pakistan, along with representatives of the Punjab Judicial Academy and KPK Judicial Academy also shared the best practices of ADR with the participants. The ADR Conference was concluded with a certificate distribution ceremony for the accredited Salis Members.



CWP-LAO HIGHLIGHTS

WELFARE DESK



During the month of Ramzan CWP-LAO distributed food items such as dates and rooh afza bottles along with hygiene kits and essential clothing items amongst prisoners at the Women Prisons & Youthful Industrial School ("Y.O.I.S") across Sindh.



INTERNATIONAL LABOUR DAY

The Labour Day was celebrated in prisons with prison staff in Hyderabad with an effort to appreciate their hardwork in connection with their contributions to uplifting the lives of prisoners and working in extremely challenging contexts.



FREE LEGAL AID CAMPS

The CWP-LAO organized Legal Aid Clinics/Camps on a large scale for adults and juveniles in 16 Prisons and 4 Y.O.I.S. These Camps were attended by 567 adult prisoners and juveniles. One special Camp was also organized at the Remand Home in Karachi. 42 juveniles were interviewed for profiling of this vulnerable segment and to understand causes of criminal behavior.

WOMEN & JUVENILE PROFILING IN SINDH PRISONS

CWP-LAO completed a research exercise on profiling women and juvenile inmates. Data from 156 under trial and convicted inmates was collected from 4 women prisons and 4 Y.O.I.S across Sindh. The purpose of this exercise is to understand the crime patterns amongst prisoners, impact and connections between social-demographic realities such as gender, marital status, occupation, and other demographic factors with crime.

LEGAL EMPOWERMENT DESK

OVERVIEW OF YEARLY PROGRESS OF CWP-LAO

CWP- LAO team has fulfilled all of its annual targets, from 1st July 2018 – 30th June 2019. CWP- LAO has represented clients in 2,802 cases from 24 prisons of Sindh. Prisoners in 895 cases were granted bails. 2,531 disposals were obtained from the courts.

TRAINING OF PRISON STAFF ACROSS WOMEN PRISON FACILITIES



CWP-LAO organized a second cycle of training for the staff deployed specifically at Women Prisons & Y.O.I.S in Karachi, Hyderabad, Sukkur and Larkana. 40 male and female staff members were trained on "Criminal Law and the Justice System; Probation, Parole and Prison Rules and were sensitized on issues related to women; and Fundamental Rights provided under Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan.



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LAS & ICRC PARTNERSHIP

This year, LAS has embarked on an exciting new partnership with the International Committee of the Red Cross (“ICRC”). The ICRC is an independent organization whose humanitarian mission is to protect and provide assistance to victims of armed conflict and other situations of violence. The ICRC also endeavors to prevent suffering by promoting and strengthening humanitarian law and universal humanitarian principles. In furtherance of the organizations’ common goals, in particular, the causes and consequences of urban violence, two research studies are underway. The first will study the efficacy and value of the Citizens Police Liaison Committee (“CPLC”) as a joint State–community mechanism to address the multifaceted challenges posed by urban violence in Karachi.

Through in depth interviews with key stakeholders and other empirical data, this study will analyze whether, how, and to what extent such a hybrid intervention may have worked, and whether it may be adopted as a best practice in other contexts facing similar issues. The second study will turn the lens of urban violence research towards juvenile perpetrators of crime and those accused of such crimes, and will analyze crime patterns by conducting a social and economic mapping of the Y.O.I.S population in Karachi. This research will be an important contribution to the nascent field of urban violence and crime research in Pakistan, and will form the basis for meaningful solutions and future interventions in the future.



ICRC

Jawziya F. Zaman - Legal Counsel & Technical Lead

LAS HIGHLIGHTS

- LAS Team conducted **112** Community Re-engagement Meetings with 1,006 community members of Karachi, Hyderabad, Larkana, Sukkur, Khairpur, Nawabshah, and Sanghar on the provision of ADR and Ombudsman. The focus of these meetings was to revisit the concept of ADR especially Ombudsman and also to assist communities to file their grievances in Federal and Provincial Ombudsman.
- LAS assisted **144** community members to file their cases before the Federal Ombudsman related to Nadra, HESCO, Sui Southern Gas Company, Benazir Income Support Program, Pakistan Railway, Pakistan Baitulmal, WAPDA, K-Electric, Higher Education Commission, FIA, Education Department, SSGCL, SEPCO Sukkur, NAVTTC and 17 before the Provincial Ombudsman related to Irrigation Department, Revenue Department, Education & Literacy Department, Local Government Department. 55 cases were resolved in which community members’ succeeded in 49 cases.
- SLACC received **11,670** calls during this Quarter from 470 cities, town, villages across Pakistan and the queries were Criminal, Civil, Public Service Matters and related to other general information.
- LAS in collaboration with the Law Department, Government of Sindh, held a media briefing on 1-year progress of SLACC. Barrister Murtaza was the chief Guest of the event. Mr. Shariq Ahmed, Law Secretary also presented, along with his team, at the Event. 28 media officials from print and electronic media covered the event and shared the progress of LAS in their respective channels and newspapers.
- LAS provided free legal assistance to 40 community members and filed their cases before the concerned courts. These cases were related to Family law (Dissolution of Marriage, Khula, and Guardian Ward), Nadra issues and Criminal Cases.

LAS entered in an MOU with Sindh Police and SJA to conduct a research study to identify defects in the investigation through examining murder cases which resulted in acquittals.

The ADR Project of LAS was shortlisted for Grassroots Justice Prize 2019, in recognition of great deeds in legal empowerment.



Dr. Habiba Hasan – Board Member of LAS received the Mohtarma Fatima Jinnah and Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Lifetime Achievement Award from the Sindh Commission on the Status of the Women, in recognition of her work and contributions for women prisoners.



i-Care Foundation

The LAS has been registered with the i-Care Foundation Pakistan which is a not-for-profit, tax-exempt trust, established in 2008 as Pakistan's first donor advised fund. As a donor-advised fund, it offers hassle free, low cost, flexible vehicle for donating to charity – an alternative to direct giving or setting up and running a private foundation.

The i-Care Fund America, Inc. provides a legal, tax efficient and convenient mechanism for U.S. donors to direct their contributions to NGOs working in Pakistan. The mission of i-Care is to improve the quality of life of underprivileged Pakistanis, by enhancing the level of philanthropic support to deserving charities and by working with them to improve their capacity to deliver more, with greater impact.



THE I-CARE FOUNDATION

ADVOCACY MEETINGS WITH KEY STAKEHOLDERS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF LAWS ON RAPE AND SEXUAL ABUSE.

The LAS field team has conducted 17 advocacy meetings with key stakeholders in the Districts of Hyderabad, Sukkur and Khairpur so as to urge for improved implementation of laws on Rape and Sexual Abuse such as the Criminal law (Amendment) (Offences Relating to Rape) Act, 2016 and Code of Criminal Procedure (Sindh Amendment) Act, 2017. The stakeholders included Police, Prosecutions, Social Welfare Department, Child Protection Units, Darul--Amans and Medicolegal Officers. LAS is working with the Women Development Department of Sindh to devise a comprehensive Sexual Violence Response Framework which will cover preventative, response and tertiary measures.

MEETINGS OF THE PROJECT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The second meeting of the Project Advisory Committee for the Project was held at the LAS Office on 8th April, 2019. This PAC is formed to oversee the work of the ongoing project "Improving Government of Sindh's Response to Sexual Violence". The Committee critically analysed the draft of the Sexual Violence Response Framework developed by LAS for the Government of Sindh. The meeting was attended by Ms. Sara Malkani, Ms. Nazish Brohi, Ms. Asiya Munir, Mr. Shehneel Gill, Ms. Maliha Zia Lari, Ms. Haya Emaan Zahid, Ms. Tara Khan, Ms. Tayba Khalid and Mr. Jamil Junejo.

"IMPROVING GOVERNMENT OF SINDH'S RESPONSE TO SEXUAL VIOLENCE"

LAS has held Legal Awareness Clinics with various grassroots communities including religious minorities and women bangle workers, on the Legal Framework on Rape and Sexual Abuse in Pakistan, in Sukkur,



Khairpur, and Hyderabad in the month of June. The seven legal Awareness Clinics held so far covered 185 participants including 69 women. The Sessions covered the definition of rape and unnatural offense with focus on Sodomy, Punishment for these Offences, Investigation Process, and Duties of the Investigators, Medical Examination and Safeguards during Trial.

IEC MATERIAL DEVELOPED

LAS has developed and designed information education & communication ("IEC") material on the "Legal Framework on Rape and Sexual Abuse in Pakistan". The IEC material provides information on various areas including definition of rape and unnatural offences, punishment for these offences, the investigation process, duty of investigators and process of the medical examination and safeguards provided for during the trial.



TRAINING SESSION ON LEGAL FRAMEWORK ON RAPE AND SEXUAL ABUSE IN PAKISTAN

Home Department, Government of Sindh constituted a Coordination Committee to ensure compliance of the order dated 31-1-2019 passed by the Honorable High Court in CP-NO. D-5920 of 2015 in the Kainat Soomro case. **LAS is notified as one of the key members.** The Committee decided to conduct a training on Rape and DNA for the Investigation Officers, Medico-legal officers and Prosecutors. LAS team members Ms. Sumreen and Mr. Zahid Messo delivered a presentation on the "Legal Framework on Rape and Sexual Abuse in Pakistan" in the training on "Medico-legal Examination & DNA Sample Collection & Preservation of Rape Victims". The Training was organized by the Department of Forensic Medicine & Toxicology, LUMHS, Jamshoro on 6th May, 2019 in Hyderabad.



VISIT OF MEMBERS OF CIVIL SOCIETY TO THE SINDH LEGAL ADVISORY CALL CENTRE

The SLACC invited members from civil society for an exposure visit on 2nd May, 2019. Justice Majida Razvi from the Sindh Human Rights Commission, Madam Anis Haroon from the National Commission on Human Rights Sindh Chapter, Madam Nuzhat Shirin from the Sindh Commission on Status of Women and Nisha Rao, a transgender lawyer and activist along with representatives from UN Women Sindh and Aurat Foundation attended the Session.

Speaking on the occasion, Justice Arif Hussain Khilji, Chief Legal Advisor, SLACC said that organisations working for human rights should not work in an isolated manner but coordinate to achieve their common goals. Ms. Maleeha Azhar, Program Manager, LAS gave a presentation on the achievements of SLACC after which the guests visited the Call Center and observed the SLACC advocates taking live calls and providing legal advice to callers. Justice Nasir Aslam Zahid, Chairperson of LAS, also mentioned the achievement of processing and handling over 80,000 calls from across Pakistan.

Naima Qamar- Research Associate



SUCCESS STORY OF KIRSHNI

A 53 year old woman, Kirshni, is a low-income resident of Sanghar, and a member of the vulnerable Hindu community. She has four sons and two daughters, and was a sanitary worker with the Local Government Department. Her husband, who was jobless all his life, died fifteen years ago and since Kirshni has been the only breadwinner for her entire family, she has been unable to send her children to school because of financial constraints. After Kirshni retired from her job, the local government refused to give her the full amount of pension. Hence, she only received Rs. 200,000 even though the amount due was Rs. 900,000. Her countless visits to the local government over the past year provided no relief or remedy. Kirshni was losing hope when she learned about the LAS through an Awareness Clinic in October 2018. LAS took on Kirshni's case and presented her complaint to the Ombudsman's Office. In March 2019, after many months of waiting, the Ombudsman made a decision in Kirshni's favor, and ordered the local government to release the remaining funds. In April 2019, Kirshni received the dues owed to her for her many years of service. Kirshni and her children are thrilled at the decision, and her son Ravi told LAS that when the family received the letter from the Ombudsman's Office, their happiness knew no bounds.

Jamil Junejo- Community Engagement Manager



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Department Government of Sindh

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.las.org.pk
www.lao.org.pk

Facebook:
@LegalAidSocietyPakistan
@LegalAidOfficePakistan