



# ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

1ST JULY 2020 TO 30TH JUNE 2021

THIS REPORT IS PUBLISHED BY THE COMMITTEE FOR THE WELFARE OF PRISONERS-  
LEGAL AID OFFICE AND SUBMITTED TO THE WOMEN DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT,  
GOVERNMENT OF SINDH



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*The Committee for the Welfare of Prisoners – Legal Aid Office (CWP-LAO) works to provide legal and welfare services to Women's Prisons in Sindh with the support of the Women Development Department (WDD), Government of Sindh. CWP-LAO's prison project is running in Women's Prisons Karachi, Hyderabad, Sukkur, and Larkana. The objective of CWP-LAO's work is to provide free legal aid and representation to underprivileged prisoners, especially women and juveniles across Sindh; to work for the welfare of prisoners and improve prison living conditions, and recommend policy reforms to support Sindh's criminal justice system and to reduce the burden on and de-congest the overcrowded and under-resourced prison system.*

During the fiscal year from 1st July 2020– 30th June 2021, due to the COVID outbreak, closures of government departments, suspension of access to prisons and suspensions in routine court proceedings and associated delays in release of funds ; variances in targets have resulted. However the CWP- LAO team has tried its level best to adapt its mechanisms and procedures to remain operational whilst at the same time being responsible for the health of its staff and ensuring a do-no-harm policy vis-à-vis its beneficiaries i.e. prisoners.

The achieved progress is summarized as follows:

- **209** Legal Aid Clinics were conducted, that is, **83.6%** of the annual target of 250.
- **166** Interviews were conducted with the inmates and on-the-spot legal advice was given to **111** beneficiaries, that is, **110.8%** of the annual target of 250.
- **89** new vakalatnamas were filed in courts, that is, **89%** of the annual target of 100.
- **44** Cases were disposed of through judicial orders that are **62.85%** of the annual target of 70.
- **28** inmates have been granted bail, that is, **98%** of the annual target of 30.
- **39** Children were receiving basic pre-primary education at Early Learning Centers (“ELC”) in both W.P Karachi and Hyderabad.
- **72** new jail admissions were given basic legal literacy sessions by the **48** convict paralegals, who will continue to provide legal awareness in a sustainable manner within the prison walls.
- **12** Free Legal Aid Camps were conducted in four Women's Prisons, Karachi, Hyderabad, and Sukkur & Larkana. **230** Women's prisoners attended these camps
- **119** Women in Karachi and **67** women in Hyderabad were engaged in classes conducted regularly for the provision of a constructive recreational activity for women inmates, while also providing for income generation to better their lives.



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **42** boxes of masks, **52** litters hand sanitizers, **196** soaps, and **13** boxes pairs of gloves, **13** hands wash and protective equipment provided in four women, prisons of Sindh in collaboration with the Legal Aid Society.
- An online training session was conducted on 4th August 2020 on the mental health of prisoners with the juvenile prison staff of Hyderabad.
- Sanitary Napkins have been distributed in all four women prisons in Sindh through which **250** women prisoners provided sanitary packs items in collaboration with Santex Ltd.
- **1** foreign female prisoner repatriated to Nigeria.
- **160** bedsheets were distributed in four women prisons and health facilities of Karachi, Hyderabad, Sukkur and Larkana in collaboration with the Legal Aid Society.
- **2,000** pairs of gloves, **13,750** Face Mask, **175** hand sanitizers, and protective equipment provided in four women, prisons of Sindh in collaboration with the Legal Aid Society.
- Pakistan Resolution Day was celebrated with **55** women prisoners along with the prison staff of Women Prison, Hyderabad.
- One day training was organized by CWPLAO on 29th March 2021 on “Sindh Prisons and Corrections Services Rules, 2019” in which **23** LAO Lawyers were engaged on one platform.
- One-day training of Senior Prison official/staff of all Sindh Prisons were held in Karachi on 12 June 2021. **25** Prison executive staff including superintendent, deputy superintendent, and assistant superintendent attended this training. DIG Women and Juvenile Prisons, Ms. Sheeba Shah also attended the training.



*CWP – LAO provides legal aid and representation in the women prisons in Karachi, Hyderabad, Sukkur, and Larkana. These are provided through a series of activities designed to reach as many prisoners as possible: regular legal aid clinics, interviews of inmates, free legal advice, and free legal representations in courts. In addition, CWP-LAO also provides for surety amounts in cases of exceptionally vulnerable and financially disadvantaged prisoners. In response to the outbreak of COVID and for further prevention and control measures, the prison administration suspended visits and contact with friends, families, legal representatives, and there was also reduced transportation to courts for trials since March 2020. Given a decline in Covid-19 cases in Pakistan, Prison Visits resumed on 8th September, 2020 and courts resumed on 25th July, 2020 with redefined SOPs and consent of Prison authorities. As a result, the Committee's ability to take on new cases, file more bail applications, and dispose of existing cases has been severely affected in the second and third wave of corona pandemic however the work continues in line with SOPs.*

### **Legal Aid Clinics**

Legal Aid Clinics are held regularly in the prisons for Under Trial Prisoners (UTPs). The objective of legal aid clinics is to provide an introduction to the basic legal information required by the UTPs and to introduce CWPLAO's free legal services for poor and underprivileged inmates if any of them wish to use their services. The clinics are organized twice a week in all four women prisons with new and old UTPs.

After the intensification in covid cases in the second wave, we restricted the legal aid clinics from 9th Nov 2020 in the concerned prisons of Karachi Region to minimize risks to staff and prisoners . These prison visits resumed on 14th December 2020. Following the intensification of covid cases in the third wave of coronavirus, all Prison visits were once again restricted by the Prison Department however special permission was granted to the CWP-LAO team through the notification by I.G to resume visits on 19th May 2021. During the project cycle of the reporting year (July 2020 - June 2021), the CWP-LAO team of advocates organized a total of **209** clinics.

### **Free Legal Aid Services**

CWP-LAO advocates provide two kinds of free legal aid services: legal advice and legal representation. Advocates take up cases of prisoners who approach them for their services and provide legal representation in court. They also provide regular updates to prisoners on their cases and ensure prisoners are aware of laws, procedures and other legal information relevant to their cases with the ultimate aim of empowering them to make informed decisions. CWP-LAO lawyers also conduct Legal Aid Clinics and interviews with new UTPs and other prisoners to provide them on the spot legal advice on an immediate basis or provide their legal information and advice at a later stage.

During the project cycle CWP – LAO advocates conducted **166** interviews with inmates, including the provision of on-the-spot legal advice to **111** (achieved **110.8%** of the annual target)



LEGAL  
AID

CWP-LAO advocates represented and filed a total of **89** Vakalatnamas (Achieving **89%** of the annual target) in courts during the project cycle. The target could not be achieved due to the COVID outbreak which suspension of Prison activities and court proceedings.

### ***Resolution of Cases***

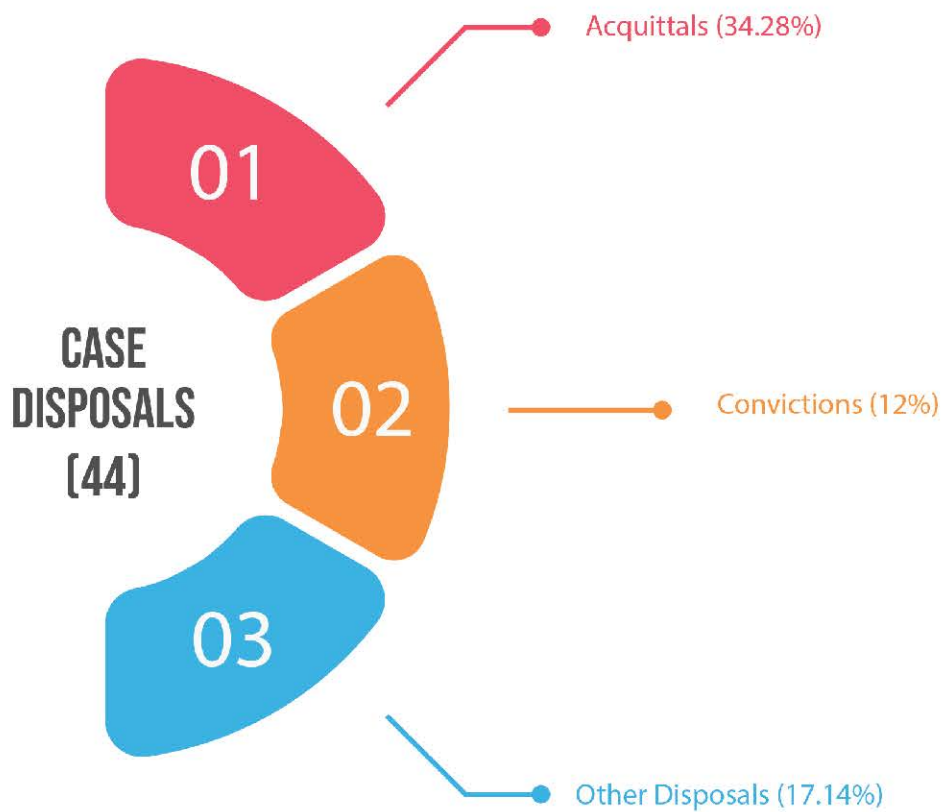
CWP - LAO advocates had the following successes during the project cycle: **44** cases were disposed of out of which, **24** cases (**34.28%**) were acquittals on merit; **8** (**12%**) were convictions on merit or by pleas of guilt, and **12** cases (**17.14%**) were disposed of on other grounds (proceedings were stopped, cases were compromised, probation, Vakalatnama withdrawn, accused absconded). **28** Bail applications were granted to inmates.

### ***Free Legal Aid & Advisory Camps***

CWP-LAO plays a critical role in disseminating information on rights, access to justice services, and access to benefits on COVID-19 response. During the second & third wave of pandemic these camps were conducted within the safety guidelines/SOPs, CWP-LAO team has taken all maximum measures in prisons to effectively control them to ensure these hazards and risks cannot cause harm to prisoners. The objective of these camps is to provide basic legal aid to prisoners in conflict with the law, from entry into the justice system at the police station through the prosecution department, the trial process in court, and prison if a person is remanded or is serving a sentence. We also raised awareness about the rights and responsibilities of users of the justice system and disseminated multi-format IEC materials to inform prisoners about Prison rules and the availability of mechanisms for

access to justice, and inform prisoners of their eligibility for support, legal aid and social services that interface with justice systems. These camps were attended by **230** women prisoners.





**CASE DISPOSALS IN 4 WOMEN PRISONS OF SINDH (2020-2021)**

*CWP-LAO believes that enhancing the legal empowerment of prisoners and ensuring their welfare is a part of their rehabilitation process. During the project cycle (1st July 2020– 30th June 2021) CWP-LAO engaged with inmates in four women prisons across Sindh through a series of interventions and activities aimed at improving their mental and physical capacities and living conditions. These have been summarized below.*

### **Prison Paralegal Program**

Since two years, based on a pre-established criterion, interest and ability, convicts (and in some cases UTPs) fulfilling the necessary qualifications to become potential “Paralegals” were trained by CWP- LAO advocates in Women Prison Karachi. The legal awareness programme was conducted through modules of eight training sessions i.e. a total of 16 hours, which included topics of constitution, fundamental rights, criminal law, criminal procedure, family law and inheritance, probation and parole. The criterion for paralegals included the need to have a minimum education of middle level, must not be involved in heinous crimes, convicted for at least 7 years and should be willing to carry out the program voluntarily. UTPs were allowed to be trained as paralegals when convicts were not available. A batch of 48 women inmates was selected in Central Women Prison, Karachi and trained for 08 days for the prison paralegal course by CWP-LAO trainers on law & Constitution, fundamental Rights, Criminal procedures & Prison Rules. The trained Paralegals have also received 15 days special remission in their sentence granted at the discretion of the I. G Prisons.

### **Prison Paralegal Sessions**

The CWP-LAO completed **6** Prison Paralegal Sessions with new inmates in C.P Karachi, Hyderabad, and Sukkur based on paralegal material developed by the CWP-LAO. The **5** selected Convict Paralegals conducted legal literacy sessions and successfully provided legal awareness to **72** new UTPs who were recently admitted to prisons. This was done through fortnightly Sessions in a month in women's Prison Karachi.

### **PPE drive in four Women Prisons of Sindh**

CWP – LAO, in collaboration with the Legal Aid Society, has provided immediate assistance through the provision of essential PPE for prisoners and prison staff. Hand sanitizers, surgical masks, hand gloves, anti-bacterial cleaning liquids and soaps, and thermal temperature scanners have been provided to all 24 prison facilities after an extensive need assessment was conducted to ensure the PPE met the demands from the prisons. CWP has provided **42** boxes of masks, **52** liters of hand sanitizers, **196** soaps, **13** pairs of gloves, **13** bottles of Hand wash, and protective





equipment to prisons in Women Prison Karachi, Hyderabad Sukkur, and Larkana. In addition, a strategy for conducting antibody testing was devised to determine the infection rates and immunity level within the prison strata. The deployment of PPE and testing of prisoners was scheduled range-wise (Karachi, Hyderabad, and Sukkur) along with training sessions for medical staff of prisons. These sessions were used to review existing SOPs and explain the value and limitations of rapid testing. The training sessions were divided into two phases. In the first phase (13 to 15th July 2020), the training covered staff from the four prisons in Karachi i.e. Women Prison, YOIS, Central Prison, and District Prison of Malir- covering the Karachi Range. In the second phase, (23rd to 28th July 2020) parallel training sessions were conducted to engage with staff from prisons in the Hyderabad and Sukkur Regions. Each training session was followed by a minicamp in which Rapid Corona testing was conducted by Nawan Labs and CitiLab/ Advanced Lab. As a result of the mechanism developed between CWP-LAO and the Sindh Prison Department, a total of 2,500 tests were conducted over 3 weeks to map out prevailing rates of infection amongst prisoners and prison staff.



### ***Online Training for Mental Health of Prisoners***

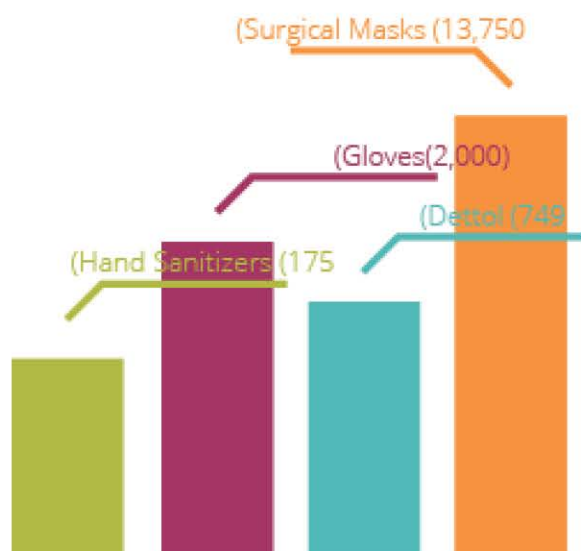
Female prisoners that enter prisons represent a population that is at high risk for substance use disorders and mental health problems. This is validated by a growing body of research on the mental health needs of women offenders.

One major finding is that incarcerated women are more likely than their male counterparts to report extensive histories of physical, sexual, and emotional abuse (Messina, Burdon, Hagopian, & Prendergast, 2006). Incarcerated women have typically experienced some form of abuse in their lifetime, including sexual abuse, domestic violence, and other physical and psychological forms of abuse. Many correctional systems such as ours are not functioning in a manner whereby they assess and screen for childhood or adult abuse in order to determine effective pathways for treatment during incarceration. The way in which prison staff treat and interact with prisoners can prevent, cause or exacerbate mental ill-health. With the rate of mental health incidents continuing to rise in our community it is more important than ever to ensure our prison staff is better equipped with the skills required to respond more effectively. CWP-LAO; with the support of its tele-health partner Sehat Kahani; organized an online training for sensitization of prison staff on mental health needs of prisoners on 4th August 2020. Prison staff can play a vital role in the prevention of mental ill-health and can improve the wellbeing of prisoners as part of their regular work. Whilst staff cannot control the increase in prison population with new jail admissions and through this control those that enter facilities with pre-existing mental health needs, they can be trained and sensitized to prevent others from developing the same issues. In view of this, 25 staff members from the women and juvenile prisons in Karachi and Hyderabad were engaged in a training which highlighted the psychosocial needs of prisoners with mental health conditions, and the challenges they face in communicating with them. The training focused on breaking down the stigma associated with mental ill health and tried to introduce a framework for developing gender responsive treatment plans and attitudes. Recovery is not a linear change but a transformation that occurs in deep connection with self and others.

Providing quality mental health services for women in criminal justice settings involves confronting a variety of systemic barriers. Our correctional system has been based on the principles of care, custody and control. It was not designed for the provision of mental health services. As such it is essential to eradicate practices that continue to traumatize and retraumatize prisoners. Providing for the mental health needs of female prisoners involves a gender responsive approach that includes comprehensive services that take into account the content and context of women's lives. CWP-LAO will continue to work with the Prisons Department to develop programs which consider the fact that a woman cannot be treated successfully in isolation from her social support network.

### ***Second Phase of Personal Protective Equipment in Sindh Prison***

After the first wave of the corona was over, it was predicted that the chances of the surviving the respiratory disease seem to have improved from the first phase of the outbreak. CWP-LAO implemented similar efforts and relief work in the second wave with donating personal protective equipment (PPE) to the Prisons across in Sindh in collaboration with the Legal Aid Society. Items included of PPE equipment for deployment in all four women prisons in Sindh.



### ***Ensuring Menstrual Hygiene in Prisons***

Menstrual hygiene products are essential and should be a priority, not an option. The struggle to make menstrual hygiene management accessible is more challenging in the context of prisons where women are many times cut off from contact with their families and are heavily reliant upon the support of the state. This problem needed to be addressed, as menstrual hygiene products are a necessity and should never be treated as a privilege. In view of this challenge, CWP-LAO partnered with Santex Pakistan, a leading company in personal hygiene care, to provide free packs of sanitary napkins to women prisoners in Karachi, Hyderabad, Sukkur and Larkana. The sanitary napkins are distributed free of cost on a monthly basis in all women prisons. One of the minimum standards specified by the Bangkok Rules is to prohibit financial burdening of prisoners for purchasing menstrual absorbents. CWP-LAO will work with the Prisons Department to ensure that the rights for menstruating populations in prisons can be streamlined along with ensuring improvement in the knowledge, attitude and practice parameters related to menstrual health of prisoners and prison staff. During the reporting period of project cycle (1st July 2020 – 30th June 2021), a total 1500 sanitary napkins were distributed to 250 women prisoners. A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between the Santex products pvt. Ltd, Sindh Prisons and Correctional Services Department and Committee for the Welfare of Prisoners, Legal Aid Office on International Women's Day 2021 to organize awareness sessions on menstrual hygiene management for women prisoners across Sindh. Mr. Kazi Nazeer Ahmed, Inspector general Prisons of Sindh, Mr. Talha Rehman, Chief Executive Officer, Santex Products Pvt. Ltd., and Justice Nasir Aslam Zahid, Chairperson, CWP-LAO, signed the MoU on 9th of March 2021 at LAO head office in Karachi.



The collaboration builds on the complementary strengths of the partners with the ultimate aim of empowering women prisoners and enabling them to look after their well-being whilst in prisons and after their release. The MoU covers MHM sessions and sanitary napkin donations in Four Women Prisons over a period of one year.

### ***Distribution of Bedsheets in Hospital facilities in Prison***

The provision of health care in prison must also align with the specific needs of the prison population. The prison itself cannot cater for all the possible health-care needs of prisoners. In the absence of a specialized service, CWP-LAO trying to fill up these gaps, in cooperation with competent prison authorities, to support catering arrangements (for PPE equipment's) and conditions of hygiene (cleanliness of clothing and bedding etc). LAO handed over 160 hospital bed sheets for the Women prison health facilities across Sindh. We always dedicated to improving the living condition of prisoners despite the onset of the current pandemic.



### ***Menstrual Hygiene Management Session in Women Prison Karachi and Hyderabad***

A Menstrual Hygiene Management session was organized for women prisoners and female prison staff at the Women Prison in Karachi on 2nd

February 2021, and Hyderabad on 8th February 2021 by CWPLAO in collaboration with Santex. This initiative was organized to spread awareness among women prisoners on the importance of managing menstrual health and how its effectiveness can ensure growth, health, and safe environment for all. Santex showed them a documentary film regarding the importance of menstrual hygiene and the myths and taboos around its practice. The team also distributed sanitary gift packs among these women with an assurance that they would keep up this initiative to the best of their capacity.

### ***Celebration of Pakistan Day in Women Prison Hyderabad***

Pakistan Resolution Day was celebrated in high spirits on March 25, 2021, at Women Prison Hyderabad. In view of the third wave of the pandemic, strict compliance of standard operating procedures (SOPs) was ensured when commemorating the celebrations. This event aimed to raise awareness on the importance of Pakistan's resolution, Pakistan's history, and commitments towards achieving an independent state by the Muslims of the sub-continent. This event went over two hours and was divided into various parts, i.e., Speeches, Milli Naghmas, Naats, and Songs. Ms. Syeda Quratul Ain Shah, in charge Women Complaint Cell, Women Development Department, attended the event and delivered a motivational speech on the occasion. Ms. Abida Sami Abbasi, Superintendent of Women Prison, and Dr. Irfana Makhdoom, Senior Medical Officer, paid special thanks in their speeches to Justice Nasir Aslam Zahid, CWP-LAO, for their welfare and legal services for the inmates. Both propounded upon the need to organize more events like these in the future for recreation of the inmates. Mr. Abdullah Soomro paid a vote of thanks to all the guests and participants and highlighted key points of the Pakistan Resolution.

### ***One Day Training of CWP-LAO Lawyers***

Staff training and career development for any organization play a vital role in the development of its human resource capabilities and the resulting improvement in service delivery standards. CWP believes that basic legal awareness and sensitization towards rule of law is something that should not only be directed towards enhancing the competencies of its staff but to every citizen which in a way leads towards legal empowerment of the entire nation. Following this principle, the CWP ensures that legal awareness is an integral part of the training curriculum for its team, along with all associated staff involved with prison management in Sindh. For the same purpose a one-day training for CWP lawyers across Sindh was held on March 29, 2021. This capacity-building session aimed at polishing the understanding of the lawyers on the new legal system introduced by the Sindh Prisons and Corrections Services Act 2019, along with the revision of Sindh Prison Rules 2020. Participants were trained on cross-examination skills using facts and figures, and unique challenges that they face in the courts with a view to assisting them gain the confidence of the clients, and communicate more effectively within the courts and prisons. With the development of new tools, cross-examination & communications skills, and additional knowledge, the lawyers will be able to better approach the problems that they face during prison management. The training also shed light on how to manage relationships, atmosphere, and codes within the prison.

The training was graced by the participation of Mr. Munawar Shah (Senior Superintendent C.P. Mirpurkhas), Mr. Mehmood Akhtar Qureshi (Senior Advocate Supreme Court of Pakistan), and Mr. Mohammad Shahid Shafiq (District Session Judge & Senior Faculty Member of SJA). Sessions were also led by Ms. Hira Saleem, Superintendent C.P. Mirpurkhas, Mr. Mehmood Akhtar Qureshi; Senior Advocate Supreme Court of Pakistan; and Mr. Mohammad Shahid Shafiq, District Session

Judge & Senior Faculty Ms. Sana Sharif and Ms. Jawziya Zaman of the CWP. The training concluded with remarks from Justice (R) Arif Hussain Khilji, who provided his valuable insights, appreciated the work done, and persuaded the lawyers to remain committed to the services they provide in order to maintain and improve the legal services which the CWP provides.



### ***Early Learning Centers (ELC)***

The interventions of the CWP – LAO's Early Learning Centers (ELC) in women prisons Karachi and Hyderabad aim to neutralize the prison environment, normalize the living experiences of children incarcerated with their mothers in prisons, and help them reintegrate with society after their release. With the aim of imparting education among children through learning methods customized to the prison context, the ELC provides its services to children between the ages of 2 to 9 who are currently studying or have previously studied at the pre-primary level. The suspension of Prison Activities i.e. Children in custody have been subject to restricted activities for the month of March 2020 to August 2020.

The testing of teachers hired for the early learning centers is being conducted twice a month by CWP and classes have resumed in outdoor space since 24th Aug for children of female inmates. In the continuing wave of COVID-19, these classes continue with all the safety measures and SOPs. During the reporting period of the project cycle (1st July 2020 – 30th June 2021), a total of **39** children attended the ELCs in Karachi & Hyderabad.



### ***Special Days Celebration in ELC***

Celebration of events and occasions is an important part of rehabilitation to allow prisoners a break from monotony, a reason to celebrate and stay connected with events in the outside world. ELC's celebrated several events in different Ways of spirit after resuming the ELC classes to restricted activities for the past three months.

#### ***Independence & Kashmir Solidarity day in ELC Hyderabad***

CWP-LAO celebrated 72 years of Independence with the resident children in the Early Learning Centre of the Hyderabad Women's Prison. To rejoice and celebrate the children displayed their artwork and drawings and sang patriotic songs. The occasion was also used to focus on the importance of showing solidarity with Kashmiris and to commemorate the Kashmir Solidarity Day to express support to Kashmiri brethren in their just struggle for the right to self-determination. The celebration concluded with a cake-cutting ceremony with the children and some of the prison staff.

The aim of these celebrations to support the children to develop an understanding of how the celebration of can be utilized in practical life an awareness of and respect for diverse values and beliefs.

#### ***Engagement With Colors***

Children of ELC Hyderabad participated in a fun Printing / Color activity. They were actively involved in making different pictures of animals, fruits, cakes and many more things with the help of tracing sheets.

### ***Welcome Back Party***

The children of ELC Karachi celebrated happiest moments to reopened classes for a long time by taking precautionary measures against Covid. The children enjoyed fun with balloons, tasty snacks and fruit meal at this occasion.

### ***Children Day Celebration***

Since 1954, the World Children's Day is celebrated worldwide on November 20th each year to promote international togetherness, awareness among children worldwide, & improving children's welfare. Keeping in view this special day for children of ELC Karachi also celebrated this day with little angels, innocent prisoner's children. In this celebration Prison Officials of Women Prisoners also participated and shared the moments of happiness with students, & also shed light on the importance of World Children's Day.



### ***Plantation Day***

On Monday, 19th March 2020, ELC Hyderabad celebrated Plantation Day to create awareness among the young children on the invaluable resources of our planet – Plants and Trees. The little ones were taught about the importance of trees for our environment and the ecosystem.

### ***Pakistan Day Celebration at ELC Karachi***

Commemorating the 23rd March as Pakistan Day, LAO organized a ceremony at ELC Karachi to honor the independence movement leaders including founder of the nation Quad-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, and thousands of others who worked tirelessly for the cause of freedom. On this occasion, Children presented different tabloos performed national songs emphasizing the need for unity and strength. A cake cutting ceremony also took place.



### ***Sewing Classes in Women Prison Karachi & Hyderabad***

Sewing classes are the most popular activity in Women Prison, Karachi Hyderabad which provides a constructive recreational activity for women inmates and also allows income generation in and outside of Prison. After outbreaks of COVID, these classes have been suspended since March 2020, now the decline cases ratio of COVID the sewing classes resume on dated 13th September 2020. we continue our services in the second and third wave of corona with redefining SOPs by CWP-LAO. The trainers have been conducting weekly classes and currently, a total of **186** students (**119** women in Karachi **67** in Hyderabad) are enrolled in Sewing Classes provided by CWP-LAO.

### ***Decor Sewing Centre of Women Prison Karachi***

The CWP-LAO has successfully introduced renovations and redecorations in the sewing centre of women prisoners. This included re décor of walls and doors (typically from dark to bright colours), replacing old wall themes with new ones, and normalizing décor in rooms to give them a more comfortable working environment.





### ***Sensory Garden for ELC Children's***

The AMI School in collaboration with CWP- LAO and with the support of Sindh Prisons embarked upon a project to develop a Sensory Garden area outside the ELC Karachi in the Women's Prison in Karachi. The AMI school team visited again on 22nd September, 2020 for mapping the landscaping to incorporated many sensory elements into this small outside area of ELC Karachi. The inauguration of the sensory garden will be in plan in the next year project cycle.



### ***Installation of CWP-LAO Visibility Boards***

In order to create greater awareness of the vast work being done by CWP-LAO and to ensure transparency and accountability, a visibility board was designed to display CWP-LAO's Annual progress and free legal aid clinics schedule within the prisons. The CWP-LAO installed visibility boards in 4 women Prisons of Sindh, the majority of which are installed in the entrance/main area of the prisons.

### ***Sewing Classes in Women Prison Karachi & Hyderabad***

Sewing classes are the most popular activity in Women Prison, Karachi Hyderabad which provides a constructive recreational activity for women inmates and also allows income generation in and outside of Prison. After outbreaks of COVID, these classes have been suspended since March 2020, now the decline cases ratio of COVID the sewing classes resumes on dated 13th September, 2020. we continue our services in the second and third wave of corona with redefine SOPs by CWP-LAO. The trainers have been conducting weekly classes and currently, a total of \_ students ( \_ women in Karachi \_ in Hyderabad) are enrolled in Sewing Classes provided by CWP-LAO.

### ***One Day Training of Prison Staff on Sindh Prisons and Correctional Services Rules***

CWP-LAO believes that legal awareness and sensitization towards rule of law should be an integral part of the training curriculum for all law enforcement professionals. A greater need was realized to improve capacities and to reflect on the major changes in New Sindh Prisons Rules.

To this context, the Committee of the Welfare of Prisoners-Legal Aid Office organized a one-day training for Sindh Prison Officials on the 'Sindh Prisons and Corrections Services Rules, 2020' on June 12, 2021, at Pakistan Society for Training & Development (PSTD) in Karachi. Alongside the new mechanisms for prison administration, the training also shared light on several important topics such as rules for Admission of Prisoners, their authorized absence, Early Discharge from prison, prisoners' wellbeing, and Rehabilitation, along with general rules relating to prison duty officers.

The day was graced by the presence of IG Prisons Sindh Mr. Kazi Nazeer Ahmed, Mr. Munawar Shah (Senior Superintendent Central Prison Mirpurkhas), Ms. Sheeba Shah (DIG Women & Juvenile Prison, Karachi), with outstanding participation from the 25 of executive staff (Superintendent, Deputy Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent) from the Sindh Prisons across Sindh.





## Financial Assistance

### **Veronica**

CWP-LAO arranged for the repatriation of a 32-year-old female foreign prisoner from Nigeria, Ms. Veronica. Due to the outbreak of COVID-19, repatriation of foreign prisoners was additionally challenging. However, CWP-LAO continued to advocate for the case of Sandra who was charged and convicted on attempting to smuggle heroin into Pakistan from Nigeria as a result of which she was in prison for 1 year and 8 months at the Women Prison in Karachi. Prison officials requested CWP for providing assistance and arranging for her ticket and the same was done. Veronica returned to her country on 30th September.

### **Rimsha**

who aged about 19 years and belongs to a very poor and needy family background. She was at 5th number among her brothers and sisters and got married at a very young age of 12 years and have no children. Her mother fixed her marriage at a very young age because she got married a second time after her father passed away. Before the arrest, she worked as a housemaid in her area and her monthly earning was a meagre 18000/- rupees a month. She was living with her husband where she got into close contact with a group of people who belonged to an organized gang selling drugs. Due to their close ties to the group, they wanted to make them part of drug trafficking under the pretext of luring them into employment. On her husbands refusal, the people of this group started harassing Rimsha in every possible way

and arrested him through the police on the charge of the wrong case. Rimsha said that their economic condition is not good so that they cannot afford the cost of a private lawyer. After engaging one of the Legal Aid Office's lawyers in her case her bail 50,000 but due to the efforts of our lawyer, her bail amount was reduced to PKR 20,000. The Honorable chairperson Justice Nasir Aslam Zahid has approved the bail request and within two days Ms. Rimsha Hamid was released on bail on 8th of June, 2021.

### ***Pro bono Services with CWP-LAO: Pro Bono Referral Network Partners before Supreme Court of Pakistan***

Hundreds of prisoners in Sindh have been wrongfully accused of crimes they did not commit and are serving their sentences in prisons across the province. Not all of them can afford to hire professional legal services to file appeals for their sentences. This is the gap that the CWP, is trying to fill. Our team of highly experienced lawyers and our network of pro bono legal partners work tirelessly to ensure that those in need to legal aid and assistance in prisons are facilitated at the earliest. We are grateful to our team of lawyers, our pro bono partners and our program team for their efforts in making this happen! The story of 75-year-old Sakina is not unique. The CWP-LAO, in collaboration with its highly capable team of pro bono legal partners managed to successfully acquit Sakina in a narcotics related case in which she was wrongfully accused and sent to prison for 8 years.





## Legal Assistance

### ***Shamim***

30-year-old Shamim was arrested on charges of theft and was sent to the Women's Prison in Karachi. CWPLAO's lawyer filed her bail application immediately. This was granted with a surety amount of PKR 10,000/- however Shamim was unable to provide a basic address or contact number for any of her family members. Her family had no idea of her whereabouts and had infact registered an FIR fearing that she had gone missing. The CWP-LAO team now faced a challenge of how to find out her relatives or any other contact details. The team devised a strategy based on very limited information we have had. They planned to access all the local cable operators in that area and through their database the team were lucky enough to get a link which led our team to her husband's house. Her surety was submitted by her husband. Her release order has been issued. She is regularly appearing for her hearing in the court and court announced its judgement with the acquittal of accused on 8th July, 2020.

### ***Rabia***

Rabia When CWP-LAO took on Rabia's case, she had been incarcerated along with her one-year old infant daughter for eleven months in the Women Prison in Hyderabad on the charges of the robbery which she did not commit. Rabia's family hails from Islamabad and her husband worked as a daily labourer. Rabia was arrested based on an FIR registered by a police officer and other officials. The FIR narrates unknown persons came to a shop and snatched fifty thousand rupees on gunpoint. She narrated her innocence; she was travelling on a public bus from Islamabad to Karachi to meet with her family. Police officials stopped her and demanded illegal gratification; when she refuse them illegally arrested her and lodged the FIR against her. She had hired a private advocate but her case was not followed

through properly. She reached out the CWP-LAO for legal assistance. Mr. Fazul Rehman, Advocate of CWP-LAO filed a vakalatnama on 21-09-2020 and examined the witnesses from the prosecution side swiftly. Based on his representation, the judge recognized that the charges against Rabia were false and acquitted her on 27-10-2020. Rabia was finally able to leave prison and be reunited with her family again.

### ***Bakhtawar***

Bakhtawar is a 55 year old woman implicated under section 9-B (narcotics case)/ narcotics case. She says she did not commit the crime. The clerk of the court of Additional Session Judge-II, HYD referred her case to CWP-LAO advocate to assist her as a needy poor lady. CWP-LAO advocate was assigned the case on 25-09-2020. During her interview, she informed the advocate that police took her from her home and demanded illegal money and on her denial she was involved in a false case, and finally she prayed for legal help. The case was fixed at the stage of evidence, DC after receiving police papers a filed power on behalf of her and proceeded with the case and examined 3 prosecution witnesses, one complainant and one eye witness. During the crossexamination of the prosecution witnesses, the prosecution closed their side and statement of accused was recorded and final arguments heard meanwhile DC further argued to the Court that the Case of the UTP has concluded from the evidence witnesses, and there are huge contradictions in the version of both complainant, witness and I.O of the case. The Judge heard the argument of Lao Advocate and acquitted her on 21-12- 2020, Hence the case was disposed of within 3 months. Finally, Bakhtawar was released from the curse of criminal litigation and she paid immense thanks to LAO Advocate and her family appreciated the work of Sindh Government and Justice Nasir Aslam Zahid.

### ***Asia Noor Muhammad***

Asia Noor Mohammad had been incarcerated for four months in the Women's Prison in Karachi. In February 2020, an FIR was registered by the police under section 6/9-B of the Control of Narcotics Substances Act. Before her arrest, she also used to work as a cook where she earned 15 thousand rupees a month. Her husband worked as a daily laborer. They have a 12-year-old son who is living with her parents. When she was arrested the first Phase of COVID was at its peak and all prison visit had been suspended. The CWP- LAO lawyer was able to obtain a Vakaltnama and get all the information of the case from her through a phone call. The case was assigned on 20-6-20 and the vakalatnama was filed 22-6-20. The case was fabricated and had no merit. The CWP-LAO advocate was able to proceed when it reached the model courts. The CWPLAO lawyer was successful in identifying the disparity in the facts and evidence (violation of 103 no any private witness, All state witnesses, in this case, no proper quantity was measured by the police at the time of recovery), of the case which was levelled against Asia. Thus the Judge held that these were all false accusations against her and she was successfully acquitted on 17-10- 2021.

### ***Shamim***

Shamim is thirty years and was implicated in the murder case of her husband, she says she did not commit. She belonged to a Christian family and hails from a small village of Gujranwala. She got married twice. Her second marriage took place in a Muslim family for which she converted to Islam. Her deceased husband worked as a laborer and was dependent on daily wages which hardly covered their day to day expenses. Shamim's second husband married her against the wishes of his family. Her in-laws disliked her and discriminated against her on a daily basis for being a non-Muslim in the past. In December 2019, an FIR was registered by the police

in Police Station Taimoria Karachi under section 302/34 PPC S.C# 1688/16 against her for murdering her husband. According to her she had visited Punjab. During this, her husband was killed by an unknown person at home. Her in-laws gave a false statement to the police and accused her of murdering her own spouse. According to the FIR, a hammer was recovered from the spot from which the victim was killed. In the investigation report, the officer also registered that the murder was committed with the same tool. LAO lawyer took her case on 24-8-20 and aggressively pursued her rights in court. Based on the representation, the judge recognized on the basis of the medical post mortem report finding that the husband was killed by poisoning so that the charges against were false and acquitted her of all charges on 7-12-20.

### ***Shahnaz***

Shahnaz was 40 years old at the time she was alleged in the charge of Murder along with her husband, and was incarcerated in Women Prison, Karachi, in September 2017. Her husband worked as a laborer and together they have 6 children. In June 2017, Shahnaz's husband, Jumman, married a young girl of approximately 20 years of age, after absconding her from her father's house. The family of the girl was influential and tried hard to take her back, however, Jumman filed instant petition in June, 2017 for a certificate of legalization of his marriage and was allowed the same in July, 2017, after the young girl's confession before the court that she married Jumman by her free will. After the petition was allowed, both of Jumman's wives were living together in rented premises. One day, while Jumman and Shahnaz were not at home, the owner of the house came and found the young girl dead inside. He went to police who arrested Shahnaz and her husband Jumman along with their children. CWP lawyer took on her case as Shehnaz was not able to engage private advocate counsel due to financial constraints.



On behalf of Shahnaz, CWP-LAO lawyer Ms. Noor-ul-Saba Hussain, represented her case on 29th September 2017. Proceedings were initiated before the court of 2nd Additional and Session Judge, Karachi (West), however, later, as Model Criminal Trial Courts came into force, the case was transferred there for fast-track proceedings. Challan was submitted on 30th October 2017. Total 8 Prosecution Witnesses were cross-examined, evidence was recorded, and arguments heard. Prosecution failed to prove even a single allegation imposed on Shahnaz and her husband. After significant personal and professional efforts on the end of the CWP-LAO lawyer, on 9th January 2021, Shahnaz was acquitted from the false charges. While normal court proceedings in cases of these nature are extremely long, Shahnaz and her husband returned home within a period of 3 years, 3 months, and 11 days. Shahnaz and her family were immensely grateful to the Sindh Government & CWP-LAO for their help.

### **Zareena**

30-year-old Zareena was arrested on false charges of Kidnapping / unlawful custody and was sent to the Women's Prison in Larkana. She was confined along with her minor son. Zareena belonged to a small village located in Qambar, (shahdadkot) and was a divorcee living with her parents and eight (8) siblings. After her imprisonment, her family lost contact with her. Zareena's case was referred to CWP-LAO by the court in charge (IVth CJ & JM Larkana) through verbal direction. On 22-10-2020, a CWP-LAO advocate interviewed her and filed a Vakalatnama as her defence. The CWP-LAO lawyer was successful in identifying disparity in the facts and evidence of the case. Thereby, on 3-2-2021, the Judge held that all accusations against Zareena were false and acquitted her of all charges. While Zareena has since been able to start a new life, due to the stigma in society and without the support of her family, she is struggling to get back to her feet.

### **Gulshan**

Gulshan was about 25 years of age, her hometown was Multan, and she had been working in Karachi for quite some time as a domestic helper in people's residence. As per allegations of the prosecution, on 1st November 2019, Gulshan entered the complainant, Dilshad Ahmed's, house situated at Kachiabad, Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Karachi and committed dacoity with the family of the complainant while the complainant succeeded in making a call at 15 Madadgar from his washroom. Thereafter, police reached and apprehended Gulshan along with 7 co-accused of the case. It was further added that during on-spot personal searches of the accused, police recovered pistols with live rounds and loaded magazines, as well as snatched mobile phones and motorcycles. After completing the search, police brought the accused at police station Gulshan-e-Iqbal, and an instant FIR was lodged against the accused under the complainant ship of Dilshad Ahmed. Our advocate interviewed Gulshan during regular jail visits and, upon Gulshan's request, a Vakalatnama was filed in court on 12th September 2020. After the filing of the Vakalatnama, case proceedings were initiated, challan was submitted with copies supplied to all parties, and charge was framed to which all accused persons pleaded not guilty and claimed for trial. The prosecution produced three witnesses whose evidence was recorded. Following this, statements of the accused were recorded and final arguments were heard before proceedings were concluded. After completion of proceedings P.O. conducted assessment of entire case record and found major contradictions and lacunas in the depositions of all the three prosecution witnesses, such as, they levelled allegation that at the time of arrest two motorcycles were recovered from the co-accused persons, however, the prosecution completely failed to produce the same before the court during proceedings. It was also alleged that

snatched mobile phones were recovered at the time of arrest, however, no evidence could be produced before the court during proceedings. Most importantly, while the incidence originally occurred at night, in the police story, the incidence was claimed to have occurred in daylight. Gulshan was working as a domestic helper at the house where the dacoity took place and had nothing to do with the co-accused persons. In light of these findings, the court concluded that prosecution made a baseless, forged and untrue story and completely failed to prove allegations against any of the accused persons. Accused was acquitted from the false charges on 15th March, 2021, by extending the benefit of doubt u/s 265-H(I) Cr.P.C. It took only 6 months and 4 days to conclude the case and Gulshan was freed from the charges. After release, she was very happy and praised the work of Justice Nasir Aslam Zahid and the Sindh Government.



*Decent living conditions and access to necessities of life inside the prison are a basic fundamental right of all prisoners.*

### ***Provision of Goods on a Needs Basis***

CWP-LAO has been distributing cooking oil, tea bags, powder milk, and infant formulas on a monthly basis to Women Prison, Karachi.

### ***Gymnasium Facility in Women Prison, Karachi***

The Gym Facility inside the Women Prison, Karachi is an initiative taken by CWP-LAO to rehabilitate women incarcerated. This not only improves their physical health conditions but also reduces their stress and anxiety. A trained female prisoner has been conducting two-hour classes and facilitates physical exercises and techniques used for manual machinery. During the Project year (**1st July 2020 to 30th June 2021**), **73** women were enrolled in the Gym Class.



IMPROVING LIVING  
CONDITION

*Development and publication of research and Information, Education & Communication (“IEC”) material is an integrated objective of the Project. This has assisted in a greater analysis of the impact of communications on the prison system and criminal justice system and their mechanisms. IEC material contributes to the legal empowerment of prisoners through the dissemination of information amongst inmates on prison rules, prisoners’ rights and fundamental rights provided under the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan*

### **Research Launch Event**

The launching for CWP-LAO studies was planned for April 2020 and has been rescheduled for next fiscal year due to the situation of COVID. The launch will be rescheduled once the situation permits and with the go ahead of the Additional Chief Secretary.

### **Development of Training Material on New Prison Rules**

CWP-LAO firmly believes that basic legal awareness and sensitization towards rule of law should be directed not only towards enhancing competencies of its staff members, but towards every citizen of the country which, in turn, will contribute towards legal empowerment of the entire nation. Following this principle, the CWP ensures that legal awareness is an integral part of the training curriculum for its team, along with all associated staff involved with prison management in Sindh. In order to do so, we have prepared training material pertaining to Admission, Authorized Absence, Admission & Visitation, Early Discharge, Rehabilitation & Wellbeing of Prisoners and general rules relating to prison officers and staff. We are aware that it is the people working in these prisons that are key to delivering desired changes and are working towards building their capacities to implement these changes by providing them with comprehensive trainings.

### **Designing & Publishing New Prison Law & Rules**

The Sindh Prisons and Correction Services Act, 2019 was successfully passed by the Provincial Assembly of Sindh on 17th May 2019. CWP-LAO remained a part of the Government Committee along with the Prison Department and was involved in the redrafting of the Prison Rules. Upon the request of I.G Prisons, CWP has successfully the designing and publishing of New Prison Rules after the consent of Sindh Prison Department and Ministry of Law Department.

### **Revision of IEC Material of Prison Paralegal Program**

CWP-LAO has successfully developed, revise, and print Information, Education and Communication materials (IEC) to raise awareness regarding the adoption of Paralegal Program interventions implemented by CWP-LAO. The specialty of this guide is that it mentions the techniques on practical bases using various learning methods like games, role-plays, simulation, exercise, and group activities. The guide also contains content relevant to basic knowledge of the law, prison rules, criminal law & different stages of a trial. We seek to incorporate major changes of the Sindh Prisons and Correctional Services Act 2019 within the paralegal teaching curriculum.



RESEARCH  
PUBLICATIONS



*Following are the challenges CWP-LAO faced during the implementation of the Project*

- During the third wave of COVID, suspension of and restrictions on activities in prisons resulted in the inability to achieve litigation targets.
- Delays in release of funds resulted in operational delays.
- The CWP-LAO team frequently visits Prisons, courts, and Prison premises. They have a higher risk of contracting COVID and spreading this at the workplace. Regular monitoring and randomized testing is needed.



CHALLENGES

## Legal Advisory Camp at Women Prisons Sindh



PICTURE  
GALLERY





# One Day Training of CWP-LAO Lawyers





## Feminine Hygiene Partnership



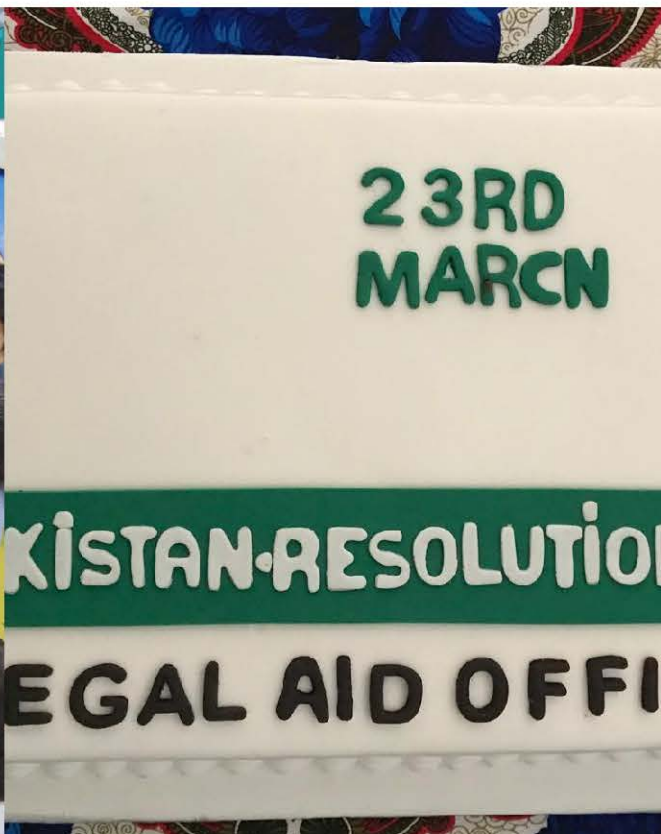


# Menstrual Hygiene session in Women Prison, Hyderabad





# Pakistan Day Celebration





# Plantation Day





# Distribution of Bed Sheet in Hospital Facilities in Sindh Prisons





## Sensory Garden for ELC Children's





# Menstrual Hygiene in Prisons: Distribution of Sanitary Napkins





## 2nd Phase of PPE drive in Women Prisons of Sindh



Karachi

