



ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT 2020

1ST JULY 2019 TO 30TH JUNE 2020

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TO THE WOMEN DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT,
GOVERNMENT OF SINDH

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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 project cycle from 1st July 2019– 30th June 2020, the CWP- LAO team has fulfilled all of its targets which were projected until March 2020. After this, due to the outbreak of COVID-19 , closures of government departments resulted in certain delays in release of funds and suspension of access to prisons, and some variances in targets ensued.

The achieved progress is summarized as follows:

- **191** Legal Aid Clinics were conducted, that is, **76%** of the annual target of **250**.
- **187** Interviews were conducted with the inmates and on-the-spot legal advice was given to **176** beneficiaries, that is, **75%** of the annual target of **250**.
- **75** new vakalatnamas were filed in courts, that is, **75%** of the annual target of **100**.
- **53** Cases were disposed of, that is, **76%** of the annual target of **70**.
- **15** inmates have been granted bail, that is, **50%** of the annual target of **30**.
- **111** 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.
- **8** Free Legal Aid Camps was conducted in four Women Prisons, Karachi, Hyderabad, and Sukkur & Larkana. **142** Women's prisoners attended these camps.
- **96** Women in Karachi and 84 women in Hyderabad were engaged in a current year of reporting period. These classes are conducted regularly for the provision of a constructive recreational activity for women inmates, while also providing for income generation to better their lives.
- Surety amounts were provided for **3** women and juvenile inmates on a need's basis.
- **62** Children were receiving basic pre-primary education at Early Learning Centers ("ELC") in both W.P Karachi and Hyderabad.
- **60** women received psycho counselling at Women Prison Hyderabad, Sukkur and Larkana.
- **500** masks, **175** (250 ml) bottles hand sanitizers, **175** soaps, **500** pairs of gloves and protective equipment provided **148** women, prisoners, in Women Prison Karachi.
- Successfully placed **4** visibility boards of CWP-LAO performance updates in four women's prisons in Sindh.



LEGAL AID

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. Due to the outbreak of COVID and for the prevention and control of the spread of the pandemic in prisons, restrictions were placed on visits of lawyers since March 2020. 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.

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Legal Aid Clinics

Legal Aid Clinics are held regularly in the prisons for deserving and needy Under Trial Prisoners (UTPs) implicated in petty offences. The objective of legal aid clinics is to provide an introduction to basic legal information required by the UTPs and to introduce CWP-LAO's free legal services for poor and underprivileged inmates if any of them wish to use such services. The clinics are organized twice a week in all four women prisons with new and old UTPs. During the project cycle of the reporting year (July 2019 - June 2020), CWP-LAO's team of advocates organized a total of 191 clinics (achieving 76 % of the annual target)

Free Legal Aid Services

The CWP-LAO advocates provide two kinds of free legal aid services: legal advice and legal representation. The advocates take up cases of prisoners who approach them for their services and represent them in the court. Thereafter, they provide regular updates to prisoners on their individual cases. They also ensure the prisoners are aware of laws, procedures and other legal information relevant to their cases to allow for prisoners to be more empowered and so that they are able to take more informed decisions on their cases.

CWP-LAO lawyers also conduct Legal Aid Clinics and interviews with new UTPs and discussions with other prisoners to provide them on the spot legal advice or provide the legal information advice at a later stage.

During the project cycle CWP - LAO advocates conducted 187 interviews with inmates, including the provision of on the spot legal advice to 176 (achieved 75 % of the annual target)

CWP-LAO advocates represented and filed a total of 75 Vakalatnamas (Achieving 75 % of the annual target) in courts during the project cycle. The target could not be achieved due to COVID outbreak which suspended most Prison activities and court proceedings.

Resolution of Cases

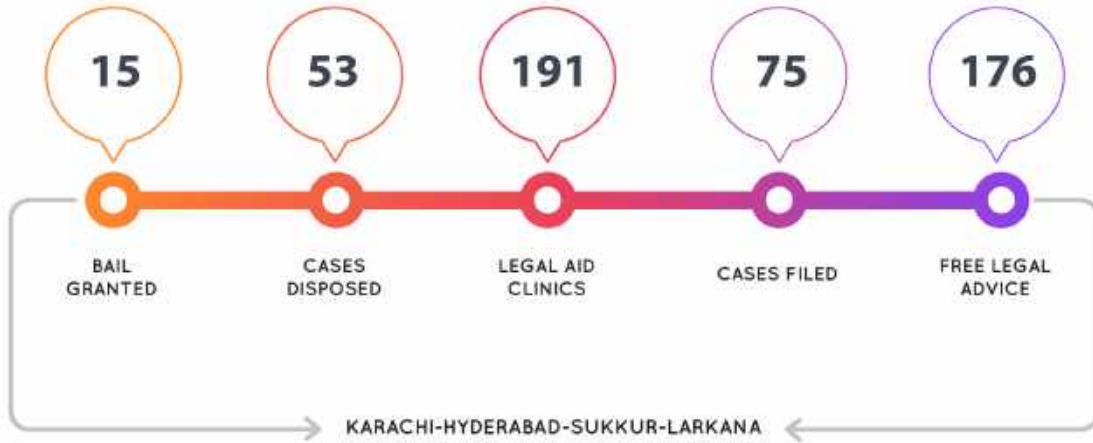
CWP-LAO advocates had the following successes during the project cycle: 53 cases were disposed of out of which,

18 cases (34%) were acquittals on merit; 10 (19%) were convictions on merit or by pleas of guilt, and 13 (25%) cases were transferred to private advocates and 12 cases (23%) were disposed of on other grounds (proceedings were stopped, cases were compromised, probation, Vakalatnama withdrawn, accused absconded). 15 Bail applications were granted to inmates.

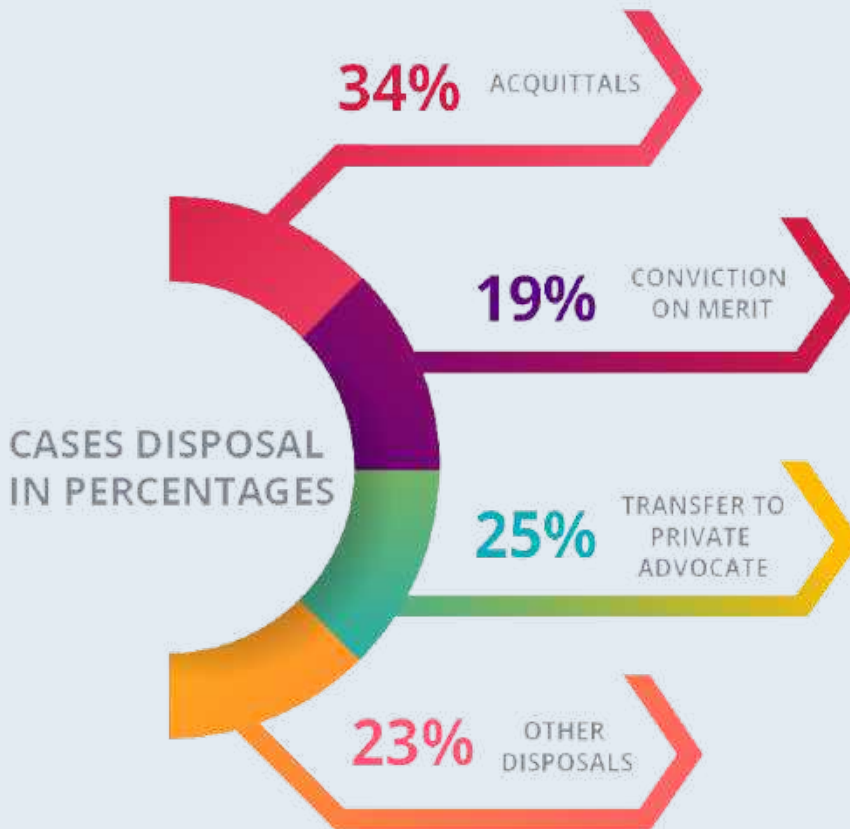
Legal Advisory Camps at the Women's Prisons in Sindh

CWP-LAO has organized 8 legal aid camps at the Central Women Prisons in Karachi, Hyderabad, Sukkur and Larkana during the reporting period of project cycle. The objective of the legal advisory camps are to spread greater awareness regarding law and how to use the Constitutional protections to secure the fundamental right for citizens. These camps provide greater and more detailed legal information and discussion on selected topics. In these camps, the following topics were discussed: the adverse impact of pleading guilty for false accusation information related to the criminal trial, the concept of bail, right to appeal and legal option to get early release. These camps was attended by 142 women prisoners. Due to the suspension of Prison activities, we have not able to conduct the free legal aid camp of the third and fourth quarter of the project cycle.

ANNUAL PROGRESS IN FOUR WOMEN PRISONS OF SINDH 2019-2020



Annual Progress in 4 Women Prions of Sindh (2019-2020)



Case Disposal in Percentages in 4 Women Prisons of Sindh (2019-2020)



CAPACITY BUILDING

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 2019- 30th June 2020) 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 Session

The CWP-LAO completed 13 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 111 new UTPs who was recently admitted to prisons. This was done through fortnightly Sessions in a month in women Prison Karachi.



Women Paralegal Naila Gulfaraz achieve success to obtain B-Form for her son, she is single mother sentenced to life imprisonment faced multiple denials of her son's birth certificate (B-Form) because she was not able to physically appear before NADRA. The absence of a B-Form prevented him from continuing his education. Paralegal Naila took it upon herself to facilitate a resolution to the problem. In collaboration with CWP-LAO and prison officials, a special request was submitted to NADRA and ultimately, the convict mother's data was taken from the Women's Prison directly to resolve the issue.

Safety equipment's distributed among prisoners

The 2019-20 corona virus pandemic has impacted prisons around the world. There have been outbreaks of COVID-19 reported in prisons and jails around the world, with the housing density and population turnover of many prisons contributing to increased risk of contracting the virus compared to the general population.

CWP-LAO in partnership with the Legal Aid Society has provided 500 masks, 175 (250 ml) bottles hand sanitizers, 175 soaps, 500 pairs of gloves and protective equipment to prisons in Women Prison Karachi Sukkur and Larkana. The equipment is expected to help over 140 women prisoners and 22 Children's.



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 to re-integrate with society after their release. 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 studied at the pre-primary level. During the reporting period of project cycle (1st July 2019 – 30th June 2020), A total 62 children attended the ELCs in Karachi and Hyderabad. Currently, the suspension of Prison Activities i.e. Children in custody have been subject to restricted activities for the past three months. The ELC holds quarterly meetings with the mothers of the children. The objective of the parent-teacher meeting is to share the learning progress of the children, and to discuss the factors which can affect learnings of children, such as behavioral and social development. During these assessments, mother of the children and Prison staff reviews the result of their children learning progress and advice for their improvement.

Special Days Celebration in ELC Hyderabad

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 during the project cycle,(1st July 2019, 30th June 2020) with children. This includes" Culture Day, Orange Day, Winter Day, Blue Day" and New Year celebration in ELC, Karachi and Hyderabad.



Eid Milan Celebration in ELC Karachi

Eid is undoubtedly the festival that upholds the spirit of brotherhood and love. To celebrate an Eid Milan Party was held on 27th August, 2019. Children came to the ELC along with their mothers with special excitement in their beautiful Eid outfits. The environment looked festive and joyous as the children decorated their ELC with buntings and balloons and happily shared their snacks with one another. The celebration included an intriguing Dance & Game Show. Students were mesmerized by the singing talents performances and gave them a huge round of applause. Later, they were seen releasing their energy by dancing and singing to their favourite tunes in the music sessions. Ms. Sheeba Shah, DIG Women Prisons Sindh also joined us in this celebration along with her team.



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.



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.

At present, women inmates are engaged in weekly classes. The Trainers have been conducting weekly classes and currently, a total of 180 students (96 women in Karachi 84 in Hyderabad) are enrolled in Sewing Classes provided by CWP-LAO.

Annual Progress Review Meeting of CWP-LAO

A progress review meeting was held with the Committee Members of CWP-LAO on 8th August 2019, at the Home Department, Government of Sindh. The meeting was chaired by Mr Abdul Kabir Kazi, Secretary, Home Department. The core objectives of the meeting were to review the progress and achievements of CWP activities for the year 2018-19 (1st July 2018 to 30th June 2019). CWP-LAO's team also gave a brief presentation and discussed agenda points in detail for review and approval of the proposed activities of the CWP for 2019-2020. All members of the committee, DIG Prisons, the Additional Secretary, Women Development Department, Government of Sindh, Additional Secretary (Prisons) Home Department were present in this meeting.



Coordination Meeting with Prison Officials

CWP-LAO's district teams arranged coordination meetings with prison officials in 4 Women prisons in Central, Women Karachi, Hyderabad, Sukkur & Larkana. The main purpose of the meeting was to strengthen coordination between the two sides and also to understand challenges prison administration faces so as to develop a more pro-active and effective approach in providing services to prisoners.

Acknowledgement of the CWP-LAO Services across 23 Prisons in Sindh

CWP-LAO has installed visibility boards in 23 prisons with the support of the Prison Department. The boards provide basic information on visit days and timings of lawyers and mention specific legal services and recreational and rehabilitative interventions. The boards also summarize past achievements. These boards are visible in all women and YOIS facilities and shall be regularly updated.

Documentaries screening at the second Floor (T2F)

Legal Aid Office has organized an event “Reimagining Justice: Legal Empowerment in Sindh.” On 8th November, 2019 at T2F, Karachi. The event encouraged discussion and dialogue about law, justice, and legal empowerment.



CWP-LAO presented its work on legal empowerment through four short video documentaries, followed by panel discussions on each documentary. The goal of this event was to familiarize the audience with the concept of legal empowerment and creative ways of engaging with the law that transcend formal judicial processes. CWP-LAO screened short documentaries about the legal empowerment programs our organization administers to equip impoverished and deprived prisoners to gain control over their lives, problems, and solutions.

Women of the World Festival (WOW)

In collaboration with the British Council, the Women of The World (WOW) festival was organized in Karachi, Pakistan for the third time from 14th to 15th December 2019 at Beach Luxury Hotel, Karachi. CWP-LAO participated in this event to promote and sell the handicrafts made by women prisoners in Karachi. All profits were divided amongst the women who made the handicrafts. The aim of this engagement was to create greater awareness in civil society of the excellent work being done by the women prisoners, and to encourage the prisoners themselves to return

to society eventually with skills, greater employability, and a better chance of integrating with the community and leading a peaceful and productive life.

Mental Health for Women Inmates

CWP-LAO, through Sehat Kahani (SK), an NGO that provides healthcare to inaccessible and underserved communities, conducted a mental health needs assessment of women prisoners in Karachi. This initiative included psychological screenings and counselling sessions to explore options for providing mental health services beyond Karachi, as well. As part of this continuation for assisting in the provision of mental health services at the Women's Prison Hyderabad, Sukkur and Larkana. The mass screening was conducted in four women Prisons in Sindh. A psychologist visited twice a week and provided counselling to women inmates. Through this mental health service, we have provided psychotherapy counselling sessions & psychiatric evaluation assessment to 60 women Inmates during the current reporting year. These are currently suspended due to covid and online methods are being explored.

International Women's Day

CWP-LAO in collaboration with the Women's Development Department and Sindh Prisons Department commemorated the International Women's Day in Hyderabad, Sukkur & Larkana Women Prisons with a focus on recognizing the indispensable role and incredible achievements of women across different facets of life. Challenges women face during incarceration were highlighted by women along with the need for raising awareness about the importance of literacy and economic and legal empowerment. WDD focal persons urged for the elimination of discrimination against incarcerated women. The govt. officials Women Development Department, District Session Judges, Sukkur and Larkana, and Regional Director Federal Ombudsman were also present during the events.



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 aim is to help with the development of children through a variety of sensory experiences which will stimulate their senses in ways that they may not be used to in a normal prison setting. For the initial needs assessment members of the AMI School along with members of parent body visited the facility on 6th February 2020 in the presence of the I.G Prisons Sindh, Mr. Nusrat Mangan. He appreciated the efforts taken by the AMI School and finalized the planning stage. At present the fund raising for this project is on hold due to the outbreak of COVID-19.



Visibility Engagement with Educationalist

On 19th February, CWP-LAO presented our work on legal empowerment through four short video documentaries followed with a question and answer session at AMI school forum with children parent. The goal of this activity is to familiarize the audience with the concept of legal empowerment and creative ways of engaging with the law that transcend formal judicial processes. Also, CWP-LAO in this support is the Go Green Carnival will organize by AMI school management as a fundraiser for collecting funds to create outdoor space at the ELC Karachi.





SUCCESS STORIES

Financial Assistance

Azra is a thirty-one-year-old woman implicated in a murder she says she did not commit. She was pregnant with her seventh child and had been in jail for six months when a CWP-LAO advocate took on her case. Azra is from Sahiwal and worked as a maid for a meagre monthly wage of Rs.5,000 prior to arrest. She was married to her cousin at the age of fifteen to a man who earned a similarly low daily wage. Neither she nor her husband could afford legal assistance, so she was languishing in jail while being nine months pregnant and due to deliver at any moment. Her physical and mental health was affected by this,

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and the fact that she would worry constantly about her other children who she missed and longed to see. After engaging CWP-LAO advocate, her bail application was allowed in the sum of Rs. 100,000. CWP Advocate successfully filed a bail reduction application and the amount was reduced to Rs. 50,000. **Justice Nasir Azlam Zahid** took extra efforts to expedite the provision of this amount to ensure Azra's release. Within 2 days of the announcement of the reduction, she was able to leave prison. She has now safely delivered her baby, and is regularly appearing for her hearings.

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

A 64 year old Haseena Saleem w/o Muhammad Saleem Baloch was incarcerated for four years in the Women’s Prison in Karachi. She is a resident of Baloch Colony, Karachi, and a mother of two daughters. Her husband had died and her brother is blind, so there was no one to care for her daughters. Before being imprisoned Haseena was supporting her family financially through her work in an a garment factory and earned Rs. 8,000 a month. After being imprisoned, her daughters were unable to afford even the cost of visiting their mother in prison for the past four years. She had not laid eyes on her daughters despite the fact that she was incarcerated in a prison in the same city where they live. She worried for their safety and was constantly wondering about their wellbeing. She had no clue as to what state they were in. Back in June 2014, an FIR was registered against her by the police at Police Station Excise Sukkur district under section 6/9-C of the Control of Narcotics Substances Act. She was travelling in a public bus from Karachi to Sukkur

for medical treatment when the bus was stopped by the excise police officials for random patrolling and checking exercise. Thereafter, the FIR narrates that the police officials found a handbag from Haseena which had 4 packets of Charas in it. The weight of the recovered item was around 4 KG. The FIR states that the heroine was recovered from her bag but she denied this and maintained her innocence. and said that she had been falsely accused by her neighbours who wanted to marry her elder neighbours who wanted to marry her elder daughter were not willing to accept the proposal and due to the animosity that developed between them and their neighbours as a result of their declining the proposal, she was implicated in false charges when she was travelling to Sukkur for medical treatment. She was eventually tried and convicted and awarded with a sentence of eight-years imprisonment and a fine of Rs.70,000 . Her subsequent appeals to the High Court and Supreme Court were both rejected. She then appealed to the Supreme Court of Pakistan again through a review petition but had no means to engage a Supreme Court-enrolled lawyer. She had limited access to information pertaining to her case

as jail authorities often received the notice for the next date of hearing a mere day or two before it was fixed. Haseena felt hopeless about her case interest litigation. He represented Haseena pro bono in Islamabad before the Supreme Court and her petition was allowed. She waand her future. After she requested help from CWP-LAO her case was referred to Mr Faisal Siddiqi, a well-known advocate known for his commitment to human rights and public interest litigation. He represented Haseena pro bono in Islamabad before the Supreme Court and her petition was allowed. She was released from prison custody. This counts as one of the great achievements by CWP-LAO.

A 70 year old woman, **Shah Bibi** was incarcerated for four years and six months in the Women’s Prison in Larkana. Shah Bibi has 1 daughter and 4 sons. She is a resident of Sheedi Muhalla Jacobabad and her family is extremely poor – her husband works as a daily wage laborer. Prior to her arrest, she would help support her family by stitching clothes at home. In November 2015, she was arrested for a narcotics-related offence which provides for a maximum sentence of death or life imprisonment

where the quantity of the contraband substance is in excess of 25 kilograms. Shah Bibi maintained her innocence the whole time, and said that she was falsely booked in this case because of her brother-in law’s animosity towards her. She was convicted at the trial court level and lost her appeal in the High Court, as well. Shah Bibi came from a destitute family and did not have access to a competent lawyer to represent her before the Supreme Court of Pakistan in her jail petition which proclaimed her innocence. Subsequently, CWP-LAO enlisted the generous pro bono assistance of Mr. Faisal Siddiqi, who agreed to represent her. After Shah Bibi’s case was argued by Mr. Siddiqi, the Supreme Court allowed her appeal. She was overjoyed at the news and was released from prison custody soon after to be reunited with her family.



Legal Assistance

When CWP-LAO took on Abida's case, she has been incarcerated for six years in the Central Women's Prison in Karachi on charges of a murder she did not commit. Abida came from a poor family of eight siblings and was married off to a man twenty years her senior when she was herself twenty years-old. Her husband already had four children from a deceased wife, and Abida became a mother overnight to all four children, and she later gave birth to a daughter. Her husband was killed and after that, her step-children forced her to marry again. When Abida attempted to assert her rights to her deceased husband's assets, her step-children became belligerent and falsely implicated her in their father's murder. Abida had hired a private advocate but her case was delayed and justice was denied due to his apathy and incompetence. She was beginning to lose hope of ever leaving prison when other inmates recommended CWO-LAO's advocate, Ms Noor-ul-Sabah. Ms. Sabah took Abida's case and aggressively pursued her rights in court. Based on her zealous representation, the judge recognized that the charges

against Abida were false and acquitted on dated 20th August, 2019 Abida, who was finally able to leave prison and be reunited with her family again.

Safia was a destitute woman who was convicted for the murder of her husband. She was incarcerated on July 15, 2019 and had begun to lose faith in the system because she desperately needed qualified legal representation to fight her case. When other prisoners suggested that she discuss her case with a CWP-LAO advocate, she began to feel some hope. She shared her story with CWPLAO advocate Ms. Shaharbano: she was married off at a young age to an old man and she subsequently had five daughters. Her husband married another woman and had children from his second wife, as well. Safia began being pressured by her brother-in-law to sell one of her daughters and she refused to do so. An ensuing family conflict resulted in the death of her husband by his own family, who had framed Safia for the murder. Ms. Shaharbano immediately took the case and after aggressively pursuing her case, was able to secure a full acquittal as the judge recognized the charges were false. Safia was released from prison and was extremely

grateful for the assistance of CWP-LAO in fighting her case and reuniting her with her beloved daughters.

Shenaz's story began when she was merely 12 years old and was married to her cousin. Her husband, was a drug addict and abused her on a regular basis. She bore three children however none of them could survive due to her poor health and the adolescent nature of her pregnancies. Shenaz husband continued to abuse her and blamed her for the death of the children. His drug addiction also compelled him to start stealing. Eventually he was murdered and Shenaz was implicated by her in-laws in October 2019. The police arrested someone else on the suspicion of the homicide however the accused person further implicated Shenaz stating that he committed the crime on her instructions. Shenaz was innocent but was unable to engage a good lawyer to defend her. She was represented by the CWP-LAO's Advocate who proceeded with the matter zealously. The judgment was pronounced on 3rd February 2020 in her favour and Shenaz was acquitted on merit whereas the co-accused was sentenced to life with a fine

of 1,000,000 rupees. As a result of the tireless efforts of the CWP-LAO lawyer, Shenaz is with her family again and is currently employed and managing to restart her life on her own terms with her newfound freedom and financial independence.

Nadia, 22 years old was languishing in Women Prison, Karachi for Six Months. She was accused of murdering her husband. Nadia belonged to a small village located in Sukkur where she lived with her parents and 5 siblings. Her deceased husband worked as a labourer and was dependent on daily wages which hardly covered their day to day expenses. Hence. After four (4) years of marriage, life brought Nadia to Karachi when her husband decided to migrate to Karachi for a better employment opportunity. In September 2019, an FIR was registered by the police in Police Station Sharafi Goth Karachi under section 302/34 PPC with co-accused (her friend named Fahadullah) with an accusation of murder of her husband. According to Nadia, after they shifted to Karachi, her husband's friend used to visit her house frequently and had forced himself on her on several occasions,

asking her to leave her husband and marry him or stay with relation as a friend, to which she refused several times but the threats increased overtime and finally one day his friend threatened her that he will kill her and her husband. Nadia's in-laws gave a false statement to the police and accused her of murdering her spouse. v The real culprit (husband's friend who successfully compromised amount with her in-laws) was at loose while the innocent Nadia was arrested for a crime she never committed. Nadia was innocent but due to her incompetent legal knowledge or financial resources, justice was delayed. Thus, out of frustration and on the recommendation of other female inmates, she contacted CWP-LAO's lawyer. Later at the stage of evidence co-accused make a compromise with the complainant and paid 47 lacs to the legal heirs of the deceased, however, Nadia was asked by the complainant to pay 16 lacs, but she could not pay such huge amount, therefore, the complainant did not make a compromise with lady accused Nadia. The CWP-LAO lawyer was successful in identifying the disparity in the facts and evidence of the case which were levelled against Nadia,

after examination of all witnesses, final arguments were heard on 20-1-2020 and judgment was announced on 29-1-2020 in which she was acquitted As a result of the tireless efforts of the CWP-LAO lawyers, Nadia was finally acquitted of all charges and was able to start a new life within the society. Although she is free, due to stigma in the society and without the support of her family she is struggling to get back to her feet. Nadia said due to the unfortunate event and false accusation, her future is ruined. However, she is grateful to the CWP-LAO, had it not been the right representation, Nadia would have been incarcerated to life imprisonment for the crime she never committed.

Asma is a thirty five year old female prisoner who was falsely implicated in a murder case . She says she didn't commit the crime and when she entered the prison for the first time she was medically unfit and suffered from the last stage of hepatitis C. Asma came from a very poor family. She worked as a teacher and earned a meagre 3000/- rupees a month. Her husband and his friend killed one of their friends due to a dispute over some money. The real culprits (her husband and his

friend) were able to escape but left Asma behind who was arrested by the police and charged with the offence. She couldn't afford legal assistance, and was languishing in a critical medical condition in the prison in Karachi when she engaged CWP-LAO's lawyer, Ms. Noor us Sabah Hussain. Asma's bail application was swiftly argued and allowed in the month of April, 2019. After this Asma continued to regularly appear before the court for her hearings as she wanted her name to be vindicated. Ms. Sabah pursued her case with full diligence resulting in her acquittal !

Sidra entered prison at the age of 23. She spent 5 years incarcerated in the women's prison in Karachi on a false charge of murder; she was handed down with a 25-year life sentence. She said she had little hope in herself or any sort of future. She belonged to a poor family and her aunt falsely implicated her and her mother for the murder of her son. She had hired a private advocate but her case was not followed properly. She reached out to the CWP-LAO for legal assistance before she filed the appeal in the high court against the sentence of life imprisonment. Mr. Habib Jiskani

Senior advocate of CWP-LAO represented her case in and successfully won the appeal today. Sidra and her mother are now back home with a chance to start over.





IMPROVING LIVING CONDITIONS

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 Cycle (1st July 2019 to 30th June 2020), **103** women were enrolled in the Gym Class.



RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

Development and publication of research and Information, Education & Communication (“IEC”) material is an integrated objective of the proposed Project. This has assisted in a greater analysis and data on the Prison System and Criminal Justice System and its mechanisms. IEC material contributes to the legal empowerment of prisoners through the dissemination of information amongst inmates on Prison Rules 1894, prisoners’ rights and fundamental rights provided under the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

Dissemination of IEC Material

CWP-LAO has developed a set of four brochures of IEC Material based on prison rules, the right of remission, right of appeal and the right of the meeting was handed over and distributed in 4 Prisons across Sindh. This IEC material was distributed to inmates during the legal awareness sessions and advisory camps.

Draft and Amendment of Prison Law and Rules

The Sindh Prisons and Correction Services Act, 2019 was successfully passed by the Provincial Assembly of Sindh on 17th May 2019 with drafting support from CWP-LAO. CWP LAO also assisted with the drafting of reform, rehabilitation and welfare related chapters of the Prison Rules which were notified in May 2020.

Profiling of Women Prisoners & Juveniles across Sindh

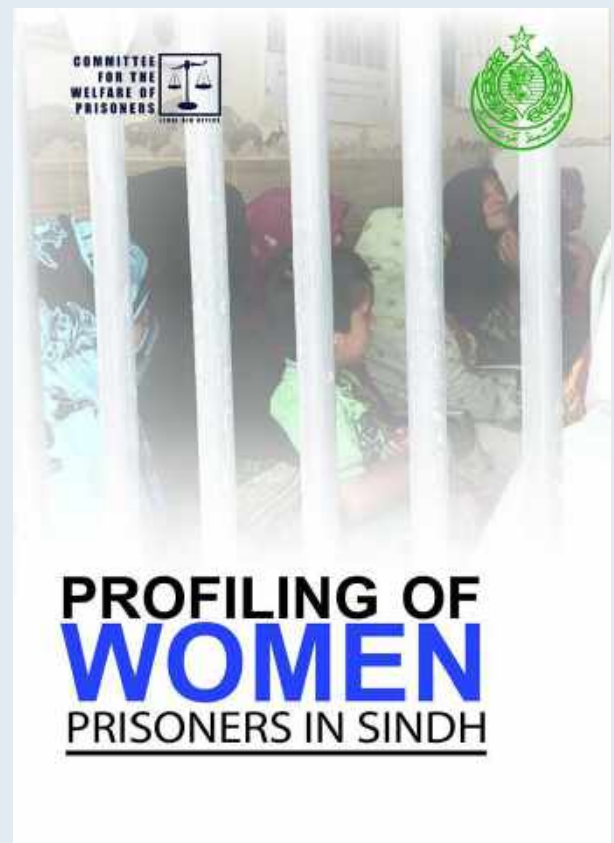
Part of CWP-LAO's mandate is to assist Government policy-making through empirical research Studies that highlight gaps in the criminal justice system. This past year, CWP-LAO undertook an in-depth profiling of the women prison population in Sindh to provide the government and other stakeholders with insight into the socio-demographics of this population and crime patterns.

Rehabilitation Policy

In the previous Project Cycle (2017-2018), CWP-LAO conducted a study on Rehabilitation Policy and Practice in Sindh Prisons. A major finding and recommendation in that study was the need for a cohesive rehabilitation policy for prisons across Sindh. CWP-LAO is currently conducting research for this policy. Desk review will be conducted in the upcoming Project Cycle (July 2019 to June 2020).

Research Launch

After the approval of the home department, the research launch will be a plan on mid-April, 2020. Due to the situation of COVID outbreaks, the research launch could not be held. The launch will be rescheduled once the situation has resorted in COVID crisis.





CHALLENGES

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

Challenges to the implementation of the project include the following:

- Suspension of all activities in Prisons due to COVID 19 outbreaks.
- Delays in release of funds resulted in operational delays.
- Due to the current situation custody is not being produced by Jail authorities therefore main cases are not proceeding only bails applications have been filed and processed.



PICTURE GALLERY



Prison Paralegal Session



Safety Equipment Distribution



Blue Colour Day in ELC Karachi



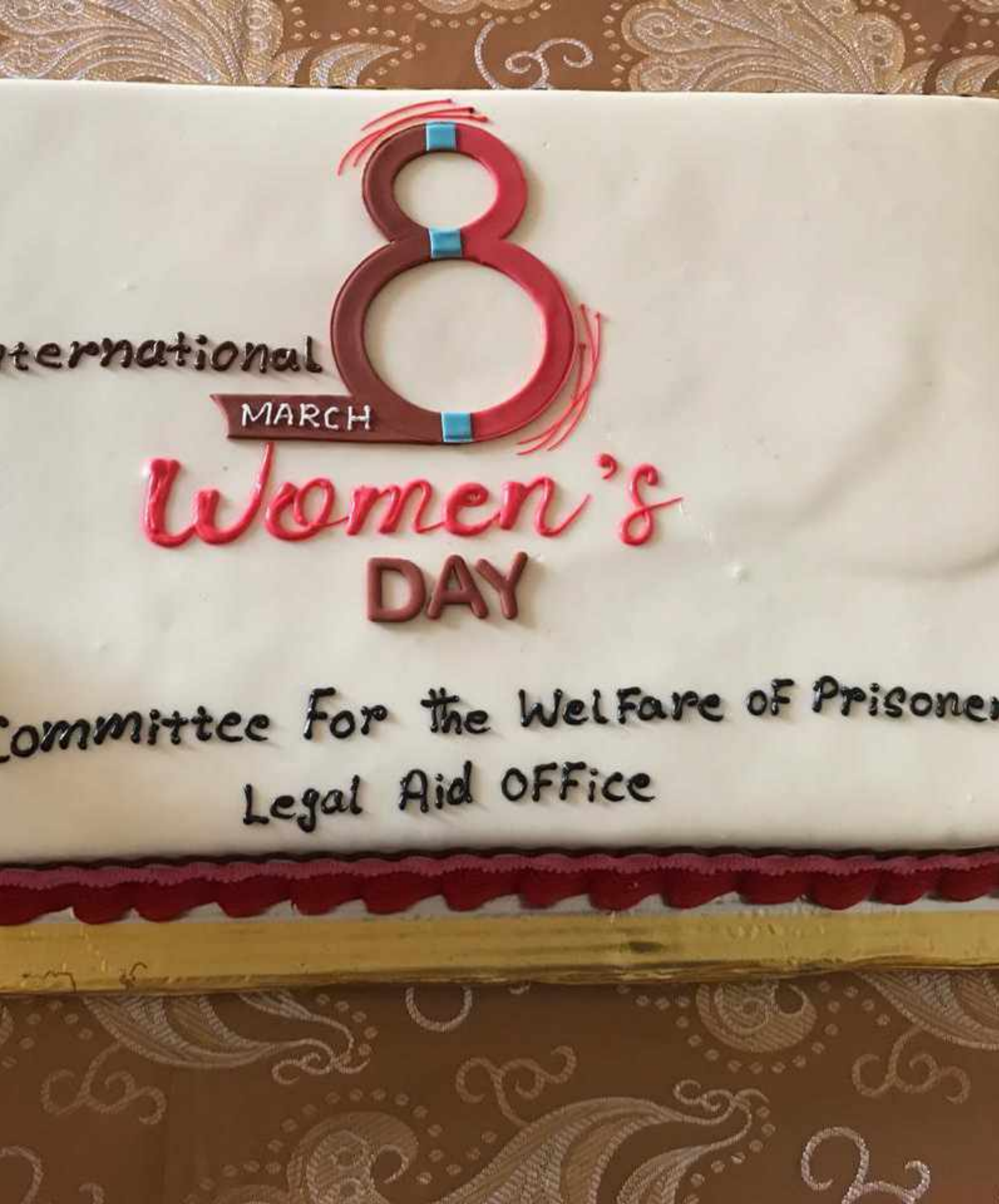
Cultural Day in ELC Hyderabad



Documentaries screening at The Second Floor (T2F)



Women of the World (WOW) Festival



International Women
Day Celebration