



ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT 2023

This Report is published by Committee for the Welfare of Prisoners
in Partnership with Home Department, Government of Sindh.

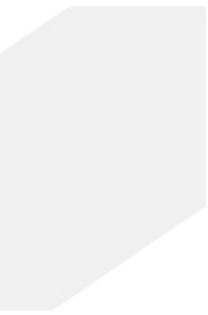


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About Committee for the Welfare of Prisoners

Vision, Mission, & Values

The Committee for the Welfare of Prisoners was initially launched as a pilot project in 2004 in the Women's Prison Karachi in Sindh, Pakistan under the leadership of Justice (R) Nasir Aslam Zahid and Dr. Farhat Zahid. Their primary focus was to assist under-trial prisoners who couldn't afford private lawyers, with Justice (R) Nasir Aslam Zahid conducting interviews and Dr. Farhat Zahid providing medical care for infectious diseases like scabies.

At its inception, the Committee comprised of just three members and aimed to offer legal representation to disadvantaged prisoners. They employed a simple approach, deploying teams of young lawyers who were eager to gain experience in criminal trials. These lawyers were assigned to different prisons based on their areas of expertise.

Over time, the Committee expanded its operations and extended its reach to include adult male prison facilities in Sindh. In 2011, the team's operation expanded to prisons, such as the Central Prison & District Prison Malir Karachi, as well as prisons in Hyderabad, Larkana, and Sukkur. Subsequently, the Committee's activities expanded further, encompassing prisons in Ghotki, Nawabshah, Nausheroferoze, Shikarpur, Khairpur in 2014, and more recently, to prisons in Dadu and Mirpurkhas in 2018.

With the continuous support from the Home Department Sindh, the Committee expanded its presence to cover 20 prisons, facilitating the release of numerous innocent prisoners. Presently, the Committee has a team of 31 dedicated lawyers who visit Central and District Prisons across Sindh multiple times a week to assess the legal requirements of new inmates.

In 2019, the Sindh Government introduced updated legislation known as the Sindh Prisons and Corrections Services Act and Rules 2019. This legislation provides a modern and progressive framework for prisoner admission, classification, rehabilitation initiatives, and other entitlements. It serves as the foundation for effective and compassionate prison governance and administration. The Committee actively advocates for speedy trials and case resolutions on behalf of under-trial prisoners, aligning with the Government's priority areas outlined in the Rule of Law Roadmap. This approach helps alleviate the burden on prisons, reduces overcrowding, and addresses the challenges faced by the under-resourced prison system.

Message from the Chairperson

As the Chairperson of the Committee for the Welfare of Prisoners, I am honored to present our annual report, outlining the remarkable strides we have taken in our pursuit of a more compassionate and just society. The Committee continues to strive towards its vision where prisoners are not only seen as individuals who have made mistakes but also as valued members who deserve a chance at rehabilitation and a better future.



In 2022, we faced a grave challenge in the form of devastating floods in Sindh, the floods exposed disparities in access to healthcare services between rural and urban areas – the disparities further exacerbated within prisons. Combating the dangers of floods requires emergency planning, cessation of everyday procedure, lockdowns and occasionally evacuations. In such times, the Committee in its capacity contributed towards relief efforts. Through our reliable partner, Sehat Kahani, the Committee was able to provide medicines to Central Prisons in Sukkur and Larkana to mitigate the risk of viral and water borne diseases among prisoners. Similarly, Santex helped the Committee in providing sanitary products to women in relief camps to ensure safe and hygienic menstrual cycles. We also engaged in important conversations through our podcast around Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in prisons to highlight the significance of safeguarding the vulnerable population in prisons, ensuring that even within confinement, their welfare remains a top priority.

A continuation of our commitment to humanitarian relief and human rights advocacy is our involvement in the repatriation initiatives for Indian fishermen. This past year, we reached out to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Interior, and the Pakistani High Commission in India to highlight the plight of Indian fishermen languishing in our prisons. Through collective advocacy efforts with the National Commission for Human Rights, a total of 400 Indian fishermen were repatriated in the year 2023 so far, reuniting them with their families and restoring their dignity. This achievement not only fosters global cooperation but also reinforces our belief in compassion and empathy for those in need. While we celebrate this success, we are mindful of the Pakistani fishermen still facing similar hardships in Indian prisons. We shall continue our efforts to ensure their voices are heard, and they find their way back home.

Message from the **Chairperson**

One of the most transformative initiatives we undertook was our collaboration with Tech Valley Pakistan. This partnership is dedicated to empower vulnerable job seekers with essential skills. Together, we have made Google Career Certificates accessible to women prisoners and female prison staff in Women's Prison Karachi. These certificates will not only equip women with valuable skills but also instill hope for a brighter future beyond the prison walls.

As we look back on the accomplishments of this past year, we acknowledge the instrumental role played by the Home Department, Government of Sindh and the Prison Department in realizing our vision of a more compassionate and just society. Their assistance and collaboration has been the cornerstone of our success. We are deeply grateful for their unwavering commitment to the cause. I am also profoundly grateful to our dedicated team, partners, and supporters who have wholeheartedly contributed to the success of our welfare and rehabilitation initiatives. Together, we have fostered a sense of compassion, empathy, and second chances for those within the prison community.

Let us move forward with unwavering determination, united in our commitment to creating a world where every individual, regardless of their past, is treated with dignity and afforded opportunities for redemption and rehabilitation.

Thank you for being an integral part of this transformative journey.

Prison Outreach

Prison	Authorized Capacity	Current Population	Difference	Overcrowding (Percentage)
Central Prison Karachi	2400	6696	4296	179%
Central Prison Hyderabad	1527	2112	585	38.31%
Central Prison Sukkur	1666	1516	-150	-9%
Central Prison Larkana	650	569	-81	-12.46%
Central Prison Khairpur	1175	1124	-51	-4.34%
Central Prison Mirpurkhas	1000	836	-164	-16.40%
District Prison Malir	1800	6091	4291	238.39%
District Prison Shaheed Benazirabad	100	309	209	209%
District Prison Sanghar	250	255	5	2%
District Prison Larkana	150	244	94	62.67%

Prison Outreach

Prison	Authorized Capacity	Current Population	Difference	Overcrowding (Percentage)
District Prison Jacobabad	250	301	51	20.40%
District Prison Dadu	250	260	10	4%
District Prison Badin	250	610	360	144%
District Prison Shikarpur	250	472	222	88%
District Prison NausheroFeroz.	250	248	-2	-0.80%
District Prison Ghotki	250	193	-57	-22.80%
Special Prison Nara	300	290	-10	-3.33%
YOIS Karachi	350	316	-34	-9.71%
YOIS Hyderabad	150	31	-119	-79.33%
YOIS Sukkur	100	10	-90	-90%

*YOIS: Youthful Offenders Industrial School

Prison Outreach

Prison	Authorized Capacity	Current Population	Difference	Overcrowding (Percentage)
Women's Prison Karachi	250	144	-106	-42.40%
Women's Prison Hyderabad	150	68	-82	-54.67%
Women's Prison Sukkur	20	49	29	145%

Outreach in Concerned Courts

Total number of judicial districts in Sindh are 27. With the expansion of the Committee's ToRs our outreach includes 8 districts: Karachi, Hyderabad, Larkana Sukkur, Dadu, Khairpur, Sanghar and Shaheed Benazirabad . These 8 judicial districts are covered by a team of 31 dedicated lawyers.

District	Regions Covered	No. of Lawyers
Karachi	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.District and Session Court Malir 2.District and Session Court East 3.District and Session Court West 4.District and Session Court South 5.District and Session Court Central 6.Judicial Complex 7.AntiTerrorism Court 8.Control of Narcotic Substances Court 9.High Court of Sindh, Karachi Registry. 10.Remand Home 	16
Hyderabad	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.District and Session Court Mirpurkhas 2.District and Session Court Tando Allahyar 3.District and Session Court Jamshoro 4.District and Session Court Hyderabad 5.High Court, Hyderabad Bench 6.District and Session Court Hyderabad 	3
Larkana	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. District and Session Court Larkana 	2
Sukkur	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. District and Session Court Sukkur 2. District and Session Court Ghotki 3. District and Session Court Shikarpur 4. High Court, Sukkur Bench 5. District and Session Court Jacobabad 	2

Outreach in Concerned Courts

District	Regions Covered	No. of Lawyers
Dadu	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. District and Session Court Naushero Feroze 2. Moro Court 3. District and Session Court Dadu 	2
Khairpur	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. District and Session Court Khairpur 	2
Sanghar	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. District and Session Court Sanghar 2. Sinjhoru Court 3. Shahdadpur Court 4. Tando Adam Courts 5. Jam two Court Tando Adam 	2
Shaheed Benazirabad	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. District and Session Court Shaheed Benazirabad 2. Daur 3. Sakrand 	2

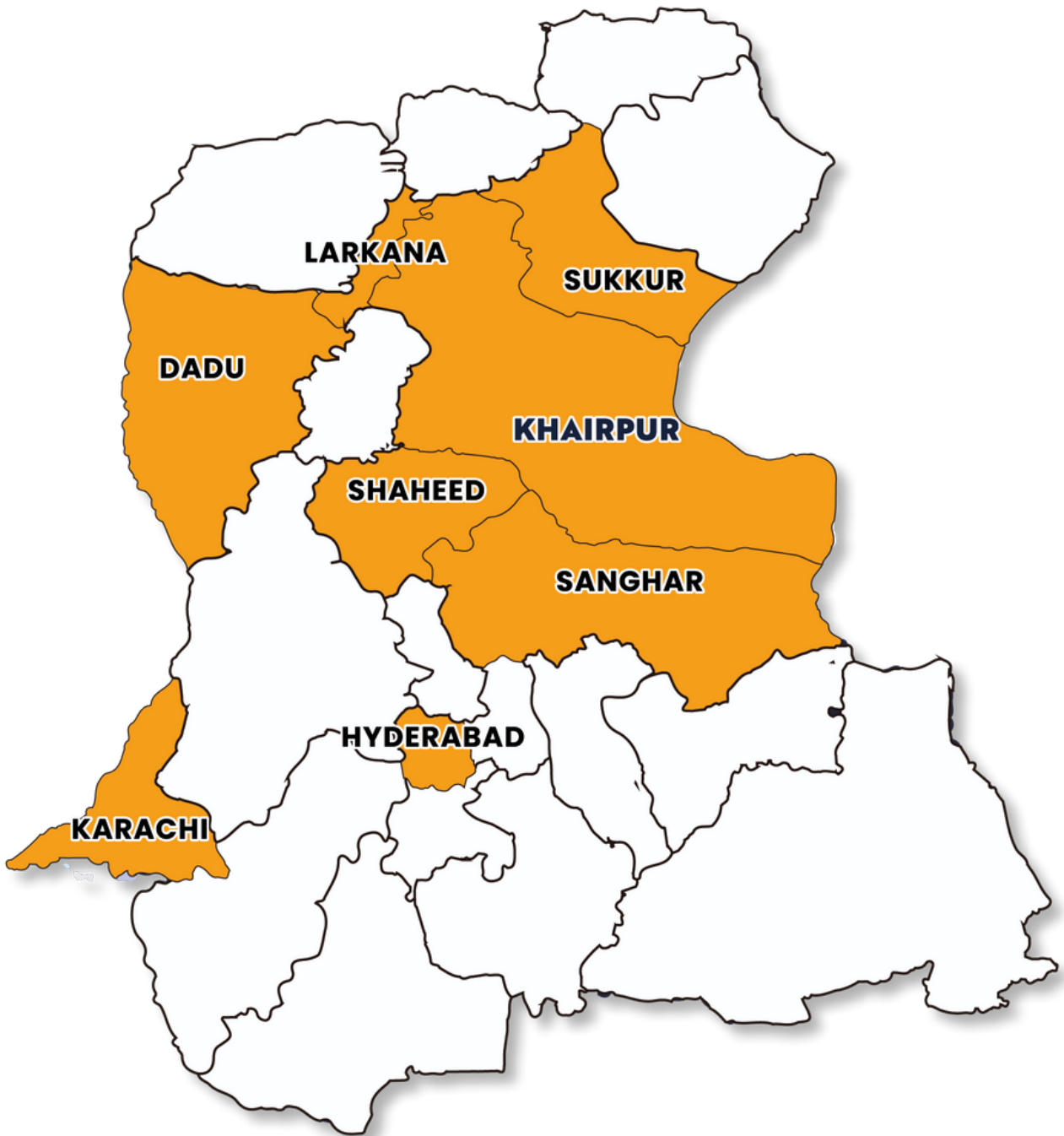
Total number of Courts covered

34

Total number of lawyers

31

Geographic Footprint



Executive Summary

During the project cycle from 1st July 2022– 30th June 2023, the Committee has had the following successes:

Legal Aid , Advice and Assistance achievements as per the Prison Rule (R 865 (a), (b), (c)) are as follows:

- **1728** legal aid clinics conducted (**1,496** in adult male prisons, **232** in women prisons) (**81%** of the projected annual target achieved).
- **3,421** interviews conducted with inmates, (**3,346** adult male prisoners, **75** women prisoners) including the provision of on the spot legal advice to **2,838** prisoners (**2,616** adult male prisoners, **222** women prisoners)
- **2,690** vakalatnamas signed and filed in courts (**2,647** adult male prisoners, **43** women prisoners) (**85%** of the projected annual target achieved).
- **1,349** applications for bail granted (**1,335** adult male prisoners, **14** women prisoners) (exceeds projected annual target by **7%**).
- **2,235** cases disposed off (**2,207** adult male prisoners, **28** women prisoners) (**91.5%** of the projected annual target achieved).
- **41** prisoners (**32** adults male prisoners, **3** women prisoners, **6** young offenders) were provided with fine and surety amounts.

Legal Awareness and Empowerment achievements as per the Prison Rule (R.865 (d), (h)) are as follows:

- 65 free legal aid & advisory camps in 25 prisons across Sindh organized by the Committee's advocates to provide topic specific free legal advice to 20,666 under-trial prisoners (UTPs) and convicts.
- 147 paralegal sessions with convicts in Central Prison Karachi, Hyderabad, Sukkur and Women Prison Karachi conducted. A total of 2,303 new inmates provided with crucial legal awareness through the Prison Paralegal Program.
- Two-day Training of Trainers (ToT) organized in Central Prison Karachi from 12th to 13th July 2023 to train new paralegals. A total of 15 new prison paralegals were trained.
- Certificate distribution ceremony organized in Central Prison Karachi. 15 successful candidates of the “Paralegal Graduate Course” were awarded certificates.

Welfare and Rehabilitation achievements as per the Prison Rule (R 865 (g) are as follows:

- 28 children imprisoned with their mothers received pre-primary education in Early Learning Centers (ELCs) established by the Committee in the Women's Prison Karachi and Hyderabad.
- Capacity building workshop for ELC teachers in collaboration with Dawood Public School conducted on 2nd and 3rd August 2022.
- 46 women engaged in weekly sewing classes in the Women's Prison Karachi & Hyderabad. These provide a recreational avenue and employment activity for women inmates, allowing for income generation inside and eventually outside of prison.
- The Committee showcased handcrafted products on 4th to 5th March, 2023 made by women prisoners in the Women's Prison Karachi at the WOW Festival 2023.
- Sanitary Napkins distributed in all three women prisons in Sindh. 250 women prisoners received menstrual hygiene products in collaboration with Santex Ltd.
- 57-year-old Nigerian prisoner imprisoned in District Prison Malir Karachi successfully repatriated on 31st August 2022.
- 25-year-old Tanzanian prisoner imprisoned in Central Prison Karachi successfully repatriated in 30th October 2022.
- Sensory garden established for children incarcerated with their mothers in the Women's Prison Hyderabad in November 2022.
- The Committee collaborated with Sehat Kahani and provided medicines to flood affected prison facilities: Central Prison Sukkur and Larkana, on September 19 & 20, 2022.
- A geyser was donated to the Women's Prison Hyderabad.
- Water boring plant successfully installed in the Women's Prison Hyderabad.
- Welfare drive in the Women's Prison Hyderabad - 80 women prisoners were provided Ramzan food packs.
- The Committee in collaboration with the Home Department and Sindh Prisons Department commemorated International Women's Day in the Women's Prison Hyderabad with a focus on recognizing the indispensable role and incredible achievements of women across different facets of life.
- The Committee's team along with Ms. Rabiya Javeri, Chairperson National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) visited District Prison Malir on 6th February 2023, to assess the situation of 675 Indian fishermen.

Welfare and Rehabilitation achievements as per the Prison Rule (R 865 (g) are as follows

- The Committee's team with Ms. Rabiya Javeri, Chairperson National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) and Ms. Mehnaz Akbar (Convenor Parliamentary Caucus on Child Rights) visited Youthful Offenders Industrial School and the Women's Prison Karachi on 6th February 2023.
- The Committee's team visited prisons in the Sukkur Region to conduct coordination meetings with the Prison Administration and Bar Association officials to strengthen coordination, build and sustain relationships, and explore synergies to ensure effective service delivery.
- Gender Identity Awareness Session was conducted on 2nd April, 2023 at the Prison Headquarters in Karachi.
- The Committee conducted strategic liaison meeting with DIG Prison, Mr. Munawwar Shah, at the IG Office on 7th June, 2023.
- Teach Valley Pakistan visited the Women's Prison Karachi on 9th June, 2023 to donate laptops for Google Certification for women prisoners.
- Data collection exercise conducted on 14th June to 27th June, 2023 to gather information on boats belonging to Indian fishermen imprisoned in District Prison Malir Karachi.
- Eid Milan celebrated at the Women's Prison Hyderabad on 5th May, 2023
- The Committee and Sindh Human Rights Commission (SHRC) continue to work in close coordination to advocate for prisoners' rights.
- The Committee distributed iftar hampers to 80 women prisoners in the Women's Prison Hyderabad through a generous private donation.
- The Committee install a water boring plant in the Women's Prison Hyderabad through a generous donation.
- The AMI School and its incredible students generously donated in our donation drive for playroom in the Women's Prison Sukkur.
- Mango Festival organized by the Committee at the Women's Prison Hyderabad on 16th June, 2023.
- Donation drives donating room coolers, water dispensers, and fans to the Women's Prison Hyderabad.

Policy and Research achievements as per the Prison Rule 865 (e), (f) are as follows

- Policy brief “Drug use among women detainees: correlates of substance abuse among under-trial women prisoners in Sindh Pakistan” aims to examine drug use among women detainees across prisons in Sindh, Pakistan to explore the social factors that correlate with drug abuse among women detainees, or the pattern/correlations between substance abuse and criminality amongst women.
- Policy brief “Drug use among women detainees: correlates of substance abuse among under-trial Juvenile prisoners in Sindh Pakistan” examines data from case management system maintained by the Committee for the Welfare of Prisoners- Legal aid Office to explore patterns and correlations between drug use and criminality as well as social factors which may have an impact on the use of drugs among juveniles.
- Policy brief, "The plight of Afghan refugees: Incarcerated in Central Prison Karachi.” developed in collaboration with the National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) has been published. This report aims to summarize the legal status of Afghans in the country, the laws pertaining to foreigners in Pakistan, and present a situational analysis of under trial and convicted Afghans in Central Prison, YOIS and Women’s Prison in Karachi as of 12th December 2022.

Annual Snapshot

The Committee for the Welfare of Prisoners (CWP) is a Government funded not for profit Committee that operates under the Chairpersonship of Justice Nasir Aslam Zahid. The Committee's work is undertaken under the Legal Aid Office project (CWP-LAO). The Committee seeks to support Sindh's criminal justice system by advocating for speedy trials and case resolutions on behalf of under-trial prisoners. This, in turn, reduces the burden on prisons and de-congests the overcrowded and under-resourced prison system, which aligns with the Government's priority areas under the Rule of Law Roadmap. The Committee, with the support of the Home Department, Government of Sindh, provides its services to prisoners in 14 adult male prisons, three juvenile facilities, Three Women facilities and one remand home facility in Sindh.

How many prisoners did we represent?



2,690

Cases represented in courts



1.5%

women



98.4%

men
(adult male &
young offenders)



43 women

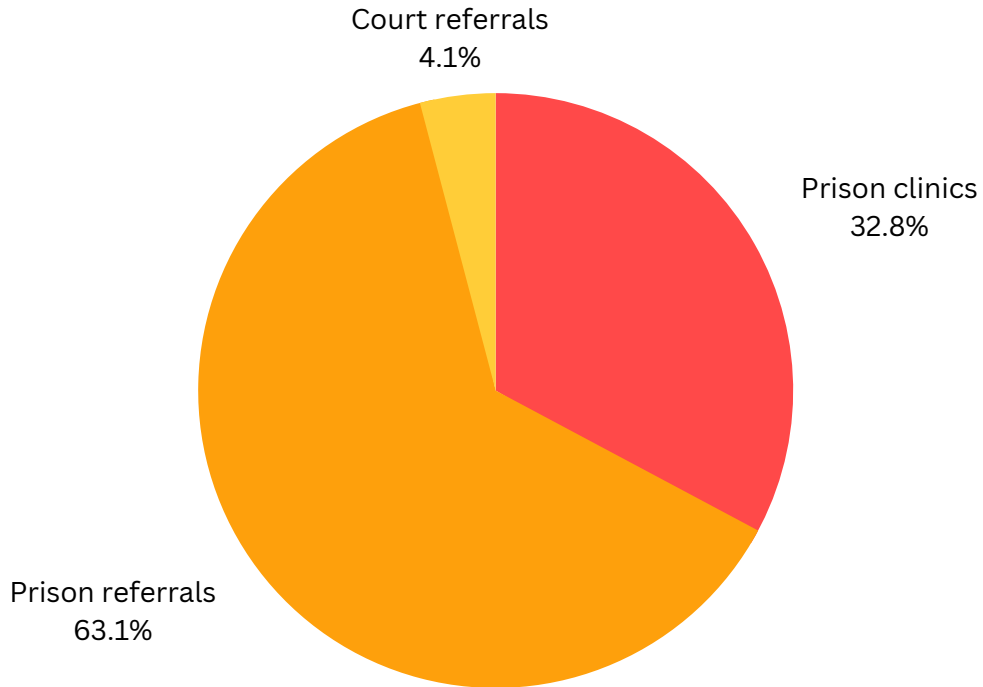


2,434 adult male



213 young offenders

How do our clients get in touch with a lawyer from the Committee?



Resolution of cases

2,235
cases disposed of

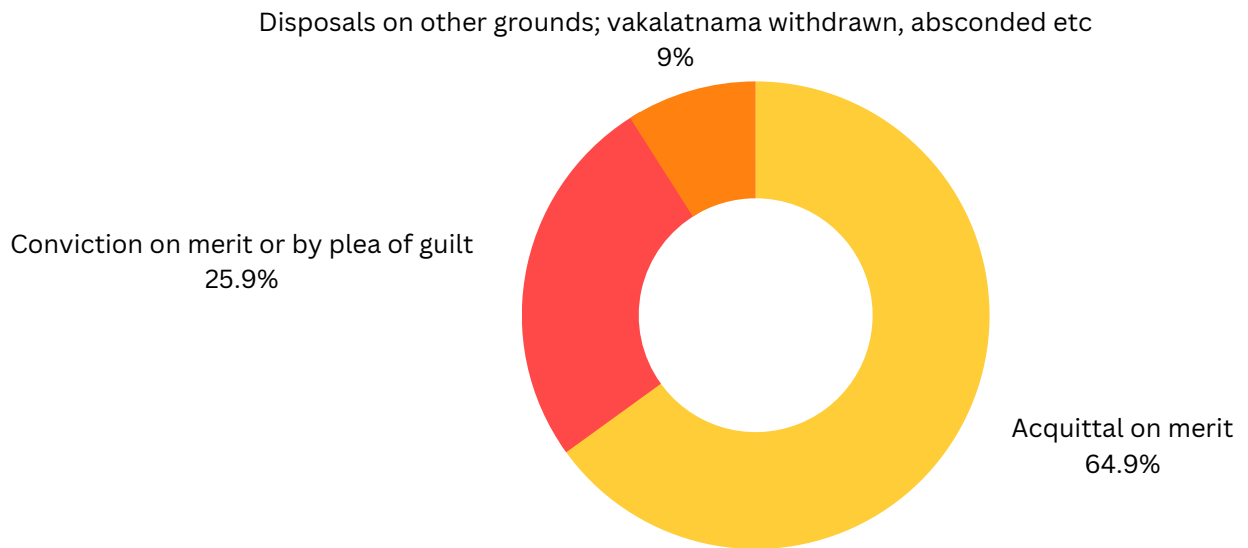


Adult Male
2,207



Female
28

Resolution of cases



*In 2022/2023 the Committee conducted **3,421** interviews with inmates (**3,346** adult male prisoners, **75** women prisoners) including the provision of legal advice to **2,838** prisoners and signed **2,690** cases which required on going assistance.*

Number of bail applications granted



60 women



1,275 adult men



14 young offenders

Financial Assistance for bail/surety amount provided by the Committee



3 women

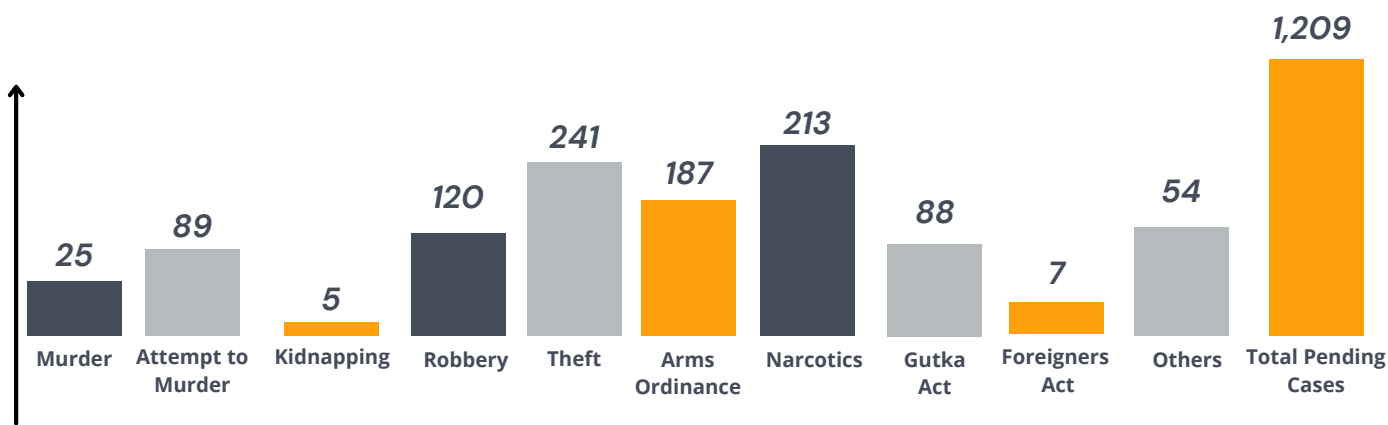


32 adult men



6 young offenders

Offence categories for filed and non filed cases in courts until June 2023:



Cases represented through Public Private Partnership

The Committee has represented **52** cases from **1st February, 2023 to 30th June, 2023** through Public Private Partnership



Committee for the Welfare of Prisoners - Prison Visit Schedule

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Central Prison Karachi District Prison Malir Women's Prison Karachi	Youthful Offenders Industrial School (YOIS) Karachi			
Central Prison Hyderabad		Women's Prison & YOIS Hyderabad Central Prison Mirpurkhas	Special Prison Nara Hyderabad	
Central Prison Sukkur Women's Prison Sukkur & YOIS Sukkur	District Prison Shikarpur	District Prison Ghotki	Women's Prison & YOIS Sukkur	
District Prison Larkana		Central Prison Larkana	District Prison Larkana	
Central Prison Khairpur			Central Prison Khairpur	
District Prison Nawabshah			District Prison Nawabshah	
District Prison Sanghar			District Prison Sanghar	
		District Prison Nausheroferoze		
District Prison Dadu			District Prison Dadu	

Successes/ Outcomes

Success stories during 2022-2023

Case Study 1:

15-year-old Khizar*, residing in the tough neighborhood of Kati Pahari in Karachi, found himself entangled in a web of adversity. Originally from Batgram, Khizar was the youngest among his eight siblings. Life had never been easy for him, and he had to work as a laborer just to make ends meet, earning a meager sum of Rs. 600/= per day. Despite the hardships, he had dreams of a better future, but fate had other plans.

Tragedy struck when Khizar was accused of involvement in a robbery case. He found himself incarcerated at the Youthful Offenders Industrial School (YOIS) in Karachi. The weight of the charges and the harsh reality of prison life weighed heavily on his tender shoulders.

The court granted Khizar bail, offering him a glimmer of hope in the form of freedom. However, hope seemed elusive as his family, belonging to an extremely impoverished background, could not provide the required surety amount of Rs. 10,000/=. The prospect of freedom was slipping away, leaving Khizar in despair. But in the midst of darkness, a ray of light emerged – the Committee for the Welfare of Prisoners. Understanding the urgency and the humanitarian aspect of Khizar's situation, he reached out to the Committee, seeking their assistance in securing his release from prison.

The Committee acted swiftly, recognizing that every moment spent behind bars was a moment of suffering for Khizar and his family. The team expedited the process and worked diligently to process the necessary documentation. With the required surety amount provided by the Committee, Khizar's path to freedom was paved.

The moment of freedom was overwhelming for Khizar, as he embraced his family after what seemed like an eternity. Tears of joy flowed down their cheeks, washing away the pain they had endured during his absence. The Committee's financial assistance for bail had not only secured his release from prison but had also brought back hope and happiness to an entire family. Now free to build a better future, Khizar is determined to turn his life around.

*Pseudonym used to protect privacy.

Case Study 2:

Amid the bustling streets of Karachi, Amanullah's* life took a devastating turn when he found himself imprisoned in Central Prison Karachi on fabricated charges of carrying an unlicensed weapon. At 52 years old, he was thrust into a world of suffering and uncertainty, his freedom ripped away unjustly. The roots of his misfortune lay in an anonymous tip received by the police, spurred by a viral video featuring two individuals near Askari Park. This led to Amanullah's arrest, with a damning unlicensed pistol discovery sealing his fate while his co-accused managed to flee.

Emerging from a backdrop of poverty, Amanullah's chances at justice seemed bleak as he lacked the resources to engage a private advocate. Yet, his glimmer of hope arose when an advocate from the Committee extended their support. His vakalatanama was filed on December 30th, 2022.

The Committee's lawyer acted swiftly, filing the necessary legal documents and working tirelessly to navigate the complexities of Amanullah's case. Their dedication bore fruit as they unearthed critical loopholes in the prosecution's narrative. Among these gaps was the absence of a required private witness, a key element given that the tip was anonymous. The court, recognizing these discrepancies, declared Amanullah innocent on June 5, 2023. In a span of just 5 months and 7 days, Amanullah's life shifted from the brink of a decade-long imprisonment and crippling fine to the freedom he rightfully deserved.

Amanullah's story showcases the profound impact of the Committee's intervention. Behind every legal term and document lies a human narrative, one of suffering and resilience. In Amanullah's case, the Committee not only brought the truth to light but also breathed life back into his shattered world, proving that justice and compassion can triumph even in the face of injustice.

*Pseudonym used to protect privacy.

Case Study 3:

In the shadows of District Prison Shaheed Benazirabad, Mohsin's* life was thrust into turmoil. At just 20 years old, he worked as a mason, earning a modest Rs. 12,000 per month. However, his world turned upside down when false allegations of carrying contraband wine led to his imprisonment. The authorities claimed discovery of 10 liters of wine during a body search, branding him a criminal and initiating legal proceedings. Financially disadvantaged and desperate, Mohsin sought help from the Committee.

Locked behind bars, Mohsin's hope remained ignited by a glimmer of justice. Reaching out to an advocate from the Committee, he began a journey to reclaim his freedom. On November 26, 2022, his vakalatnama was filed. As the case advanced through the intricate web of legal proceedings, the advocate relentlessly navigated the complexities of Mohsin's defense.

The narrative of fabricated accusations and uncertain future finally took a turn. On January 19, 2023, delving into every detail, the court exposed gaping inconsistencies and the prosecution's failure to substantiate their claims. The culmination of just 1 month and 25 days led to Mohsin's redemption as the court decreed him innocent, the weight of false accusations finally lifted. Mohsin's journey serves as a testament to the Committee's vital role in rewriting stories of injustice. Mohsin's victory stands as a beacon of hope, reminding us that even amidst the darkest of circumstances, justice can shine through.

*Pseudonym used to protect privacy.

Case Study 4:

Muhammad Yameen, a 15-year-old who supported his struggling family with his Rs. 15,000 monthly earnings from labor, faced a daunting situation after a bike-truck collision. Instead of aid, the truck driver involved escalated matters by involving the police. Consequently, Yameen was wrongly detained, accused of carrying an unlicensed weapon and robbery.

Facing this predicament, Yameen turned to the Committee for support, as he couldn't afford a private lawyer. On October 20, 2022, his vakalatnama was filed. However, the case experienced setbacks due to the complainant's absence and a lack of witnesses, prolonging the proceedings.

Yet, the court's commitment to justice prevailed. On April 1, 2023, Yameen was acquitted through the court's discretionary powers, saving him from a potential 10-year imprisonment and heavy fines that he would have faced without the Committee's aid. The case concluded in an astonishingly short span of 5 months and 13 days, securing Yameen's release from unjust accusations.

*Pseudonym used to protect privacy.

Case Study 5:

In the backdrop of societal disparities, Mehmood's* life unfolded, marked by the struggle of a 44-year-old laborer, striving to make ends meet with a meager Rs. 15,000 monthly income. His was a narrative entrenched in poverty, a story often unheard amidst the clamor of everyday life. Yet, fate took an unkind turn when Aqeel found himself accused of a crime he vehemently denied – stealing a water motor from the complainant's house.

The complainant's accusation led to an FIR against Mehmood.

Desperate for defense, Mehmood reached out to the Committee's lawyer. On June 9, 2022, the vakalatnama was filed. As the case progressed, layers of a skewed investigation began to unravel.

In the heart of the legal proceedings, the court's discerning eye recognized the fragility of the case. The prosecution's narrative was marred with inconsistencies and shadows of manipulation. Mehmood's truth emerged triumphant on September 22, 2022, when the court declared his innocence. A tale that unfolded over a mere 3 months and 14 days saw Aqeel cleared of the weighty accusations that had hung over him.

Mehmood's story is more than legal documents and verdicts; it's a testament to the voice of those who often remain unheard. His journey, guided by the Committee's intervention, underscores that justice is not solely a legal endeavor – it's a journey that, when guided by compassion and diligence, can reshape the narratives of lives like Mehmood's.

*Pseudonym used to protect privacy.

Case Study 6:

Asia*, a determined widow caring for her two young sons in Khairpur Mirs, relocated to Hyderabad for work. Her sales job became a source of stability, until an encounter with the police turned her life upside down. Refusing to pay a bribe, she and her colleagues were arrested and falsely accused of drug-related offenses. Imprisoned in Central Prison Mirpurkhas, Asia's dire financial situation prevented her from hiring a private lawyer to defend her case.

Seeking a lifeline, Asia turned to legal assistance, resulting in the Committee's advocate taking up her case. On September 20, 2022, her vakalatnama was filed, initiating the legal proceedings. A thorough examination of the case exposed contradictions in the prosecution's witnesses' statements. Unable to prove their case, the prosecution faltered, leading to Asia's vindication on November 24, 2022.

The pro-bono legal support Asia received spared her from nearly 14 years of wrongful imprisonment. Her story underscores the vital role of accessible legal aid in ensuring justice for those unable to navigate the legal system alone, highlighting the power of dedicated advocacy to triumph over baseless accusations.

*Pseudonym used to protect privacy.

Case Study 7:

Hamid's story is that of resilience. Hamid, a 60-year-old senior citizen burdened by the weight of his years and meager earnings struggled to make ends meet on a monthly income of Rs. 10,000 as a laborer. Hamid was the solitary pillar supporting his destitute family. Amidst the daily grind, the accusations levied against him of an encounter with the police party pierced his fragile world. He vehemently denied these allegations, asserting their falsehood, all while grappling with the threat of incarceration.

The case was a referral from the District and Sessions Court. On January 19, 2023, the Committee's advocate filed a vakalatnama on his behalf. The contours of this case were stark – a senior citizen standing against a tide of police officials, the only witnesses in the absence of private accounts. This violation of section 103 Cr.P.C. cast shadows of doubt on the case's integrity.

The court meticulously examined every fragment of the case, from the challan to the accused's statement, from the evidence to the final arguments. The prosecution's witnesses wavered under scrutiny, their conflicting statements undermining their credibility. Burdened with the onus of proof, they faltered. In a moment that held the weight of justice, the court declared Hamid innocent on May 12, 2023.

This tale of fortitude, culminating in a resolution within 3 months and 24 days, shines light on the Committee's intervention. Hamid's potential for a decade of imprisonment and financial ruin was averted.

*Pseudonym used to protect privacy.

Case Study 8:

Abid, a 24-year-old who carried the responsibility of providing for his family's needs, found himself unjustly confined in District Prison Sanghar under false charges of dacoity. Lacking the means to afford a personal lawyer, Abid's hopes rested on the support of others to navigate his legal battle.

In a fortunate twist, the Committee's advocate stepped forward, championing Abid's cause. On April 5, 2023, the advocate submitted the vakalatnama on Abid's behalf. As the trial progressed, the witnesses' inability to identify Abid as the alleged perpetrator became evident. Seizing this opportunity, Abid's advocate submitted a case disposal application. The court, recognizing the fragility of the prosecution's case, agreed that continuing the trial would be an injustice to the court's process.

In a swift resolution, Abid was liberated on May 3, 2023, a mere 29 days from the commencement of the case. His story underscores the indispensable role of dedicated legal assistance in shielding individuals from wrongful imprisonment, and the swift dispensation of justice when falsehoods are unveiled.

*Pseudonym used to protect privacy.

Case Study 9:

Aliya Begum*, a devoted 40-year-old mother of 8, lived in Karachi with her husband and children, striving amidst dire poverty. Previously from Multan, she had found solace in the bustling city alongside her husband, who worked as a driver. However, her world crumbled in 2018 when she was falsely implicated in a murder case along with others. The police arrested her, leading to her imprisonment in the Central Prison for Women and Correctional Facility in Sindh, Karachi.

Following a prolonged trial in the district court, she and her co-defendants were handed life sentences in November 2021. On top of that, she was burdened with a Rs. 100,000 compensation order for the deceased's heirs, coupled with a one-year prison term if unable to comply.

In a ray of hope, Aliya Begum's path crossed with the Committee in March 2022. Seeking aid for her pending appeal before the Honorable High Court of Sindh in Karachi, she found a dedicated advocate from the Committee. Her appeal was filed on April 14, 2022, and her case swiftly presented before the High Court.

On December 1, 2022, her journey to justice reached its culmination. The Honorable High Court allowed her appeal, recognizing her innocence and acquitting her of all charges for which she had been unjustly tried, convicted, and sentenced in the lower court. This resolution was achieved in a remarkably brief span of 7 months and 18 days, not only providing justice but also saving her precious years from wrongful confinement.

*Pseudonym used to protect privacy.

Case Study 10:

Unjustly confined in Central Prison Larkana on false dacoity charges, Ali Gul*, a 50-year-old laborer from Larkana, found solace in the support of the Committee. Represented by a dedicated advocate, his case was filed on March 24, 2022. During the trial, contradictions emerged in the evidence, shedding light on the absence of a defined role for the accused and the lack of substantial proof.

Through meticulous examination of all case records, encompassing the challan, evidence, accused statement, and closing arguments, the court discerned the baselessness of the charges against Ali. Consequently, he was acquitted and set free on July 5, 2022, marking a triumphant end to a journey that spanned a mere 3 months and 12 days. This swift resolution underscored the instrumental role of committed legal advocacy in dispelling injustice and securing freedom.

*Pseudonym used to protect privacy.

Activities in 2022-2023

Capacity Building

Two Day Training Workshop for Early Learning Center Teachers

The Committee places a strong emphasis on providing on-job training to its employees, aiming to enhance their skills and capabilities. Our Early Learning Center (ELC) teachers from Karachi and Hyderabad participated in a two-day training workshop organized by Dawood Public School on August 2 & 3, 2022, in Karachi. The workshop covered various topics, including multiple intelligence, learning styles, questioning skills, literacy and life skills, and the implementation of a happy culture and two-week planners. The sessions were designed to create a dynamic and engaging classroom environment for both the students and teachers.

Three Days TOT (ToT) for the Committee's Lawyers

The Committee organized a three-day Refresher Training of Trainers (TOT) for its lawyers engaged in the Prison Paralegal Program across four prisons in Sindh. The training took place at the Pakistan Society for Training & Development (PSTD) in Karachi from 10th to 12th July 2023.

The main objective of the training was to enhance the capacity of the Committee's lawyers. The training program spanned three days and focused on incorporating adult learning techniques and interactive methodologies to enhance participants' comprehension of the concept of Legal Empowerment. A key objective of the training was also to ensure a thorough understanding of the significance and effective delivery of Paralegal Sessions, utilizing the Paralegal Reference Guides.

Lawyers from all the Committee's regional offices actively participated in the training. The training included various crucial topics, such as the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Fundamental Human Rights, Criminal Laws (including Defenses and Sentencing), Probation & Parole, Juvenile Justice, and Prison Rules, utilizing advanced learning techniques. The event concluded with a certificate distribution ceremony on the last day. Originally planned for mid-June, the training was rescheduled to July 2023 due to the expected severe cyclone in Karachi.



Delegation Visits

Empowering Women Prisoners: The Committee Collaborates with Tech Valley Pakistan

In a strategic alliance, the Committee has partnered with Tech Valley Pakistan to extend the accessibility of Google Career Certificates to marginalized job seekers. The primary objective of this collaboration is to provide women prisoners and female prison staff in the Women's Prison Karachi with essential skills that can pave the way for a more promising future. As a significant contribution, Tech Valley Pakistan has generously donated laptops, fostering an environment of learning and collaboration within the prison. Umar Farooq, CEO of Tech Valley, visited Women's Prison Karachi on 9th June, 2023 further strengthening the foundation for future opportunities and impactful collaborations.



Visit to District Prison Malir with National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) to assess the situation of 675 Indian fishermen

Ms. Rabiya Javeri, Chairperson National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR), along with the Committee's team, led a visit to District Prison Malir to assess the situation of Indian fishermen imprisoned there. The prison houses more than 1400 foreign national prisoners, with 675 of them being Indian fishermen. In 2020, the Committee conducted research titled "The Plight of Foreign Prisoners in Sindh: A Fact Sheet," revealing that 74.4% of foreign national prisoners in Sindh were Indians, and 38% of them lacked consular access.



The issue of Indian and Pakistani fishermen unintentionally crossing territorial waters while fishing and facing long-term arrests is well-known. To address this, Pakistan and India signed a Consular Agreement in 2008, mandating consular access for nationals within three months of arrest. However, the Joint Judicial Committee formed in 2008, aimed at ensuring prisoners' rights and repatriation, and has been inactive since 2013. Recent lists exchanged in January 2023 showed 705 Indian prisoners detained in Pakistan and 434 Pakistani prisoners in India. During the visit to District Prison Malir, authorities reported that 675 Indians were held there, with 24 being convicts, 12 under-trial, and 639 awaiting repatriation.

Chairperson Sindh Human Rights Commission, Mr. Iqbal Detho Joins Eid Milan Celebration at the Women's Prison Hyderabad

We were honored to have Mr. Iqbal Detho, Chairperson of the Sindh Human Rights Commission (SHRC), join us for a special Eid Milan celebration at the Women's Prison Hyderabad. The event, organized by the Committee, provided an opportunity for Mr. Detho to engage with inmates, attentively listening to their concerns and ensuring the protection of their human rights.

During his visit, Mr. Detho also interacted with children at the Early Learning Center in Hyderabad. We deeply appreciate his dedication to promoting understanding and respect for human rights.

These meaningful events strengthen the bond between law enforcement and the community, emphasizing the importance of human rights. We remain committed to collaborating with individuals like Mr. Detho to advocate for prisoners' rights, improve prison conditions, and enhance the lives of those within our prisons.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Mr. Iqbal Detho for his visit and unwavering commitment to the cause of human rights.



Achievements

Indian Fishermen are home!

The repatriation of 200 Indian fishermen in May 2023 from District Prison Malir Karachi brought relief and joy to their families and communities after a long wait.

Another batch of 200 Indian fishermen was released from District Prison Malir on 2nd June 2023. A total of 400 Indian fishermen have been repatriated so far in the year 2023.

This initiative not only helps individuals return to their homes and loved ones but also reinforces the importance of respecting human rights and humanitarian relief. Such repatriation efforts are essential in promoting global cooperation and fostering a sense of compassion and empathy towards those who are in need.

Through this goodwill gesture, we hope that Pakistani fishermen in Indian prisons also find their way home.



Streamlining information on boats belonging to Indian fishermen

Efforts to streamline information about boats owned by Indian fishermen imprisoned in District Prison Malir Karachi have been undertaken by the Committee. These boats hold immense value, serving as both their livelihood and essential assets.

Proper management and protection of these boats are crucial to support the fishermen's future livelihoods and aid their reintegration into society. By documenting the boats and their condition, potential losses, damages, or unauthorized use during their imprisonment can be prevented. Furthermore, this promotes transparency and accountability in the prison system and relevant ministries, ensuring that the prisoners' assets are safeguarded and accounted for.

Through this exercise, the Committee aims to ensure that the boats remain in good condition and are returned to the fishermen upon their release.



Visit to Youthful Offenders Industrial School and the Women's Prison Karachi with National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) and Mehnaz Akbar (Convenor Parliamentary Caucus on Child Rights)

Rabiya Javeri, Chairperson National Commission for Human Rights, and Mehnaz Akbar, Convenor of the Parliamentary Caucus on Child Rights, along with the Committee's team visited the Women's Prison and Youthful Offenders Industrial School in Karachi. The visit aimed to follow up on the situation of Afghan Refugee prisoners in Sindh prisons. In November 2022, there was a surge in Afghan prisoners due to a combing operation, leading to prison facilities operating beyond their authorized capacity.



The Women's Prison, with an authorized capacity of 250, had to accommodate 284 women prisoners along with 219 children under the age of 9 who were incarcerated with their mothers. In response to this alarming situation, the Committee and the NCHR published a policy brief titled "The Plight of Afghan Refugees: Incarcerated in Central Prison Karachi," which outlines the legal status of Afghans in Pakistan and the laws pertaining to foreigners. The visit aimed to assess the living conditions of women and young offenders in the Women's Prison and Youthful Offenders Industrial School in Karachi. The brief is available on the Committee's website.

Strengthening Partnerships: Committee's Engagement through Liaison Meetings

Mr. Habib Jiskani, Litigation Manager, embarked on a visit to the Quetta High Court Bar Association and Supreme Court Bar Association, where he actively engaged in discussions to showcase the Committee's achievements. . During these meetings, he presented comprehensive reports, newsletters, and diaries, shedding light on the remarkable achievements and ongoing updates of the Committee.

The meetings were attended by prominent individuals, including Abdul Malik Baloch (Member Executive



Committee, Supreme Court Bar Association), Abid Kakar (President, Quetta Bar Association), and Talat Jabeen (Library Secretary, Quetta High Court Bar Association). The efforts of Justice Nasir Aslam Zahid were also acknowledged during these interactions.

Through these well-organized meetings, the Committee successfully demonstrated effective communication, highlighting their impactful work, which in turn garnered appreciation and positive feedback from legal professionals and Bar Associations. These fruitful engagements fostered stronger partnerships, reinforcing the Committee's commitment to collaboration and progress in its mission.

Legal Empowerment Approaches

Prison Paralegal Program

The Committee acknowledges the lack of facilities available to new UTPs and other prisoners, leading to limited access to regular and essential legal information.

In 2017, the Committee piloted a Prison Paralegal Program in Central and Women's Prison in Karachi to promote legal literacy among under trial prisoners. The program was later scaled to the Central Prisons in Hyderabad and Sukkur.

This is a unique, one-of-its-kind convict led program with the objective to create a sustainable mechanism for all new inmates in prisons to be informed on rules, laws and norms. Its sustainability is ensured through training convicts as paralegals who then transfer knowledge to other prisoners.

The Committee successfully completed 147 Prison Paralegal sessions with new inmates at the Women and Central Prison Karachi, Hyderabad & Sukkur in the year 2022- 2023. These legal literacy sessions have provided legal awareness to 2,303 new under trial prisoners (UTPs).

Paralegal Training of Trainers (TOT)

Central Prison Karachi

Two-day Training of Trainers was organized in Central Prison Karachi from 13th to 14th July 2023, to train new paralegals for the Prison Paralegal Program. The main objective of this training was twofold. Firstly, it introduced participants on effective adult teaching techniques, ensuring that the paralegals are equipped with the most up-to-date and impactful methods of imparting knowledge to the new inmates attending paralegal session in the Central Prison Karachi. Secondly, the training provided a comprehensive information on the topics included in the Prison Paralegal Manual, ensuring that the paralegals have a thorough understanding of the material and can effectively convey it to the inmates.

The training was led by Ms. Angbeen Mirza. A total of 15 new paralegals were trained. On the final day of the training, Mr. Hassan Sahito, Senior Superintendent of Central Prison and Correctional Facility, Karachi, delivered a motivational speech to the participants and distributed certificates to acknowledge their participation and learning achievements. Originally planned for mid-June, the training was rescheduled to July 2023 due to the expected severe cyclone in Karachi.



Free Legal Advisory Camps

The Committee organized a total of 65 free legal aid advisory camps between 1st July 2022– 30th June 2023, in prisons across Sindh. 479 prisoners benefitted from free legal advice. As a result of these advisory camps, 2066 vakalatnamas were signed. These camps raise awareness of the rights and responsibilities of users of the justice system and disseminate multi-format IEC materials to inform prisoners about prison rules, the availability of mechanisms for access to justice, their eligibility for support, and legal aid and social services that interface with the justice systems.



Welfare Initiatives

Sanitary Napkins Distribution

The Committee is thrilled to continue its partnership with Santex Pakistan, a remarkable feminine hygiene brand. Since 2021, we have been working together to provide essential feminine hygiene products to women prisoners in three women's prisons in Sindh. Our mission is to ensure these women manage their periods with dignity and knowledge. A total of 250 women prisoners continue to receive menstrual hygiene products in prisons.



Children's Day at Early Learning Center (ELC)

The Early Learning Centers (ELCs) in Karachi and Hyderabad celebrated "International Children's Day" on 20th November 2022 with a little gathering for the children. The teachers had prepared cards for all the students, and the room was filled with heartwarming laughter as the kids enjoyed games and cake. The celebration at ELC Karachi was graced by the presence of Ms. Humera, Assistant Superintendent of Women's Prison Karachi.



Early Learning Centers (ELC)

The Committee's Early Learning Centers (ELC) in the Women's prisons in Karachi and Hyderabad have a clear objective: to create a positive prison environment, normalize living experiences for children incarcerated with their mothers, and facilitate their successful reintegration into society after release. The ELC curriculum is in line with the National Curriculum for Early Childhood Education. By tailoring education methods to the prison context, the ELC provides valuable services to children aged 2 to 9. During the reporting period from 1st July 2022 to 30th June 2023, a total of 37 children attended the ELCs in Karachi and Hyderabad.

The ELC conducts quarterly Parent-Teacher meetings with the mothers of the children to discuss the progress of the students' learning and address any factors that may impact their education, including behavioral and social development.

Celebrating Special Days in ELC Karachi & Hyderabad

The Early Learning Centers (ELCs) in Karachi and Hyderabad celebrated special events and occasions during the project cycle from 1st July 2022– 30th June 2023. These celebrations are an essential part of rehabilitation, providing prisoners with a break from the monotony of prison life and allowing them to stay connected with events in the outside world. The ELCs commemorated Pakistan Day and Kashmir Day with the children, fostering a sense of celebration and connection to important national events.



Establishment of the sensory garden at ELC Hyderabad

In November 2023, the Committee took a significant step by establishing a Sensory Garden at the Early Learning Center (ELC) in the Women's Prison Hyderabad for children in prison. The establishment of this garden was made possible by generous donors who aimed to provide a unique platform for the children incarcerated with their mothers. The Sensory Garden offers an opportunity for these children to experience a sense of life outside the prison environment and learn about the importance of different general ethics in a friendly and nurturing setting.



Sewing Classes in Women Prison Karachi & Hyderabad

Sewing classes have gained immense popularity in the Women's Prison Karachi and Hyderabad. These classes offer incarcerated women a positive and productive way to spend their time, while also enabling them to generate income both within and beyond the prison walls. With weekly sessions conducted by dedicated trainers, the sewing classes provided by the Committee currently have a total of 46 students, with 23 women in Karachi and 23 in Hyderabad actively enrolled.

Repatriation of Foreign Prisoners

Chukwudi Anthanatus Silver, a 57-year-old Nigerian, was incarcerated in District Prison Malir Karachi after being caught attempting to smuggle 1040 grams of cocaine into Pakistan. His arrest occurred upon his arrival at Jinnah International Airport, and he was subsequently sentenced to two years in prison. The origin of his predicament was an offer of two thousand dollars to transport drugs to Pakistan.



After serving his sentence, which concluded in February 2022, Silver faced financial challenges that prevented him from affording a ticket back to Nigeria. Back home, he worked as a driver and earned a modest monthly income of fifty to eighty dollars. Despite his wife's efforts to sell some property for the purpose, the funds were still insufficient to cover the travel costs.

In seeking a solution, the District Prison Malir Karachi administration sought the assistance of the Committee to facilitate Silver's repatriation. With the kind support of JAS Travels, the Committee managed to arrange for Silver's ticket, with JAS Travel covering 50% of the airfare. Consequently, on August 31, 2022, Silver successfully returned to his home, reuniting with his loved ones and expressing deep gratitude to the Committee for making it possible.

Another case of repatriation involved Agustino Lusaulwa, a Tanzanian national who completed his sentence but encountered significant challenges in arranging his journey back home. Lusaulwa lacked the necessary funds for air travel and was unable to communicate his family details effectively. Thankfully, the Committee, with the generous support of JAS Travel, intervened and successfully arranged for Augustino's travel back to Tanzania.

Now, Augustino has joyfully reunited with his family and loved ones, and the Committee extends its heartfelt appreciation to JAS Travel for their unwavering support.

Mango Festival in Women's Prison Hyderabad: A Heartwarming Event

The Committee organized a Mango Festival on 19th June, 2023 that brought a much-needed sense of normalcy to the Women's Prison in Hyderabad. Generous private donors contributed a delightful array of mangoes, offering the women prisoners a taste of joy and sweetness amidst their confinement. Beyond a momentary escape, the festival encouraged camaraderie through friendly games, reminding the women of the value of community and shared experiences even within the prison walls. Such initiatives play a crucial role in restoring normalcy and dignity, providing hope and connection for prisoners on their path to rehabilitation.



Donation Drives

Distribution of medicines to flood affected prison facilities

The 2022 floods in Sindh exposed significant disparities in access to healthcare services between rural and urban areas, which was further exacerbated in prison facilities. To cater to the situation, the Committee took on the initiative for prisoners' health and safety by providing necessary medicines to mitigate the risk of viral and water-borne diseases.

On the request of the Deputy Inspector General of Prison Police Sukkur Region, the Committee collaborated with Sehat Kahani to provide medicines in two prison facilities: Central Prison, Sukkur and Larkana on September 19 & 20, 2022, respectively. We are thankful to our donor Sehat Kahani who helped us address the immediate medical needs of prisoners due to the floods.

Distribution of winter sweaters in Youthful Offenders' Industrial School (YOIS) Hyderabad

The Committee was able to distribute winter sweaters in YOIS Hyderabad through a generous private donation. We would like to thank donors who came forward for this noble cause.



Water plant installation in the Women's Prison Hyderabad

After the devastating floods in Sindh in 2022, the water supply to Women's Prison Hyderabad was severely damaged which led to acute shortage of water. Through a generous donation, the Committee was able to install a water boring plant to ensure water supply.



Bringing Festive Cheer to Prisons: Committee's Eid Initiatives

Spreading the joy of Eid within prison walls, the Committee carried out several heartwarming initiatives to brighten the celebrations for inmates. In the Women's Prison Hyderabad, the Committee distributed iftar hampers during Ramadan, thanks to a generous donation. Additionally, through the kindness of a generous donor, eid suits were given to the women prisoners at the Women's Prison Hyderabad and the young offenders at the Youthful Offenders Industrial School Hyderabad. The recipients were overjoyed and expressed gratitude for the opportunity to experience a little joy during the Eid festivities.

The Committee's efforts extended to the Women's Prison Karachi, where Eid gifts were distributed to the children incarcerated with their mothers and the kids of female prison staff. Witnessing the children's smiles and excitement as they received their new toys was truly heartwarming.



Bringing relief during scorching summers!

The Committee responded to a request from the Women's Prison Hyderabad for essential items to combat rising temperatures. Proudly donating room coolers, water dispensers, and fans, we stand in solidarity with the incarcerated women, ensuring a more comfortable environment.

Provision of Goods on a Needs Basis

The Committee has been distributing grocery packs which include cooking oil, tea bags, powder milk and infant formulas on a monthly in the Women's Prison, Karachi through the support of private donors. These grocery packs have been provided to 170 women prisoners along with 29 children.

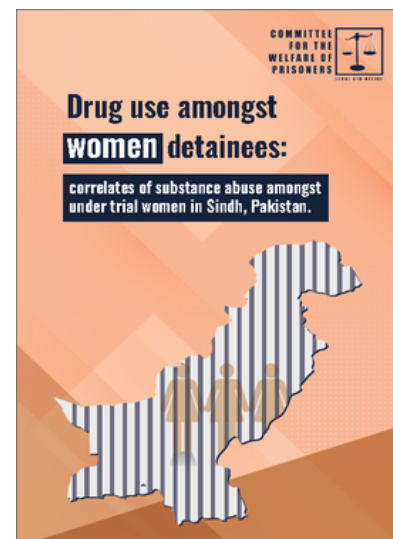
Research

Development and publication of research and Information, Education & Communication (“IEC”) material is an integrated objective of the Project. This has assisted in greater analysis of 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, prisoners’ rights and fundamental rights provided under the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

Policy brief: “Drug use amongst women detainees: correlates of substance abuse among under trial women in Sindh, Pakistan.”

Quantitatively analyzes data on under-trial prisoners available on Case Management System maintained by the Committee from 2015 to 2022. The study identifies two critical drivers, marital status and increasing dependent count, which show a positive relationship with drug use among women. The policy brief puts forward necessary recommendations for an improved rehabilitative approach within prisons in light of gender-specific rehabilitation and reintegration international laws and after a review of the Sindh Prisons & Corrections Services Rule 2019.

This policy brief is available on the Committee's website.



Policy brief: "Drug use amongst juvenile detainees: correlates of substance abuse amongst under trial juvenile detainees in Sindh, Pakistan."

Ample literature around the world investigates drug use amongst prisoners in general, and juveniles in particular, to explore social and personal characteristics which correlate drug use and criminality. In terms of Pakistan, little literature seeks to explore the social factors that correlate with drug abuse amongst juveniles, or the patterns/correlations between substance abuse and criminality amongst juveniles. A large body of existing evidence suggests an intimate relationship between drug use and involvement in crime therefore there is a need for an enhanced understanding of the drug-crime relationship to identify patterns of delinquent and offending behavior to allow for better targeted interventions in the future.



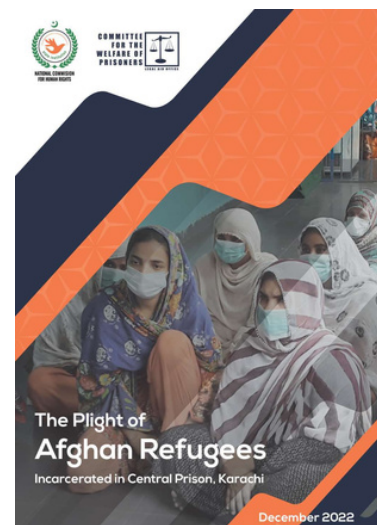
This policy brief examines data from Case Management System maintained by the Committee to explore patterns and correlations between drug use and criminality as well as social factors which may have an impact on the use of drugs among juveniles. This brief is available on the Committee's website.

Policy brief, "The plight of Afghan refugees: Incarcerated in Central Prison Karachi." developed in collaboration with the National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR)

This report aims to summarize the legal status of Afghans in the country, the laws pertaining to foreigners in Pakistan, and present a situational analysis of under trial and convicted Afghans in Central Prison, YOIS and Women's Prison in Karachi as of 12th December 2022.

The brief aims to summarize the legal status of Afghans in the country, the laws pertaining to foreigners in Pakistan, and present a situational analysis of under trial and convicted Afghans in Central Prison and the Women's Prison in Karachi as of 12th December 2022.

The brief is available on the Committee's website.



Podcast series initiated by the Committee

The Committee initiated a podcast series with a focus on corrections, prisons and prison population.

The first podcast sheds light on the Early Learning Centers (ELCs) in Women’s Prison Karachi and Hyderabad. ELCs provide basic pre primary education to children incarcerated with their mothers.



The second episode highlights the importance of legal empowerment in prisons. In this podcast we talk about reforms in the context of prisoners through the lens of legal empowerment.



The third episode, “Emergency preparedness in times of natural calamities” with Deputy Inspector General Prison Sukkur Region Syed Munawar Ali Shah highlights the impact of the 2022 monsoon on correctional facilities in Sindh.



The podcasts are available on our official Facebook page and Youtube channel.

Risks and Challenges

Risks

Based on referrals from Prison Authorities or Courts, the Committee may proceed with cases related to the death sentence which might conflict with the state's position on capital punishment.

Bar councils and members of Bar Associations have expressed concerns regarding the impact of the Committee's services within prison environments, perceiving potential challenges to the traditional role of legal professionals.

Over the years, the Committee's services and operational scope has expanded, however, the Committee has received the same allocated amount for its legal aid services. With increasing inflation, it is becoming difficult to manage the operational costs incurred every day.

Prison security is an important factor that may hinder service delivery. For example, in case of a prisoner escape, prison security may be tightened, suspending regular prison visits.

The Committee's teams have continuously operated in a critical scorching weather in Sindh with the daytime temperature rising to 46 – 49 degrees Celsius in Dadu, Nawabshah, Larkana, Sukkur, Khairpur, Jacobabad, Hyderabad and Badin. Dadu. When exposed to such conditions, the teams face a higher risk of heatstroke and dehydration.

Mitigation

In this regard, the Committee has a certain criteria and policy guidelines for petty offences. Legal aid and representation compliant with the criteria is provided with regular monitoring and evaluation.

The Committee actively fosters engagement with the legal fraternity through strategic meetings with Bar Associations, aimed at nurturing a stronger and more sustainable working relationship. Additionally, we have organized capacity building sessions for lawyers, in collaboration with Bar Associations, further enhancing our commitment to a productive partnership.

The Committee, in its annual progress meeting at the Home Department, has requested for a 10% increment in the allocated budget due to inflation in past years. Additionally, the Committee is exploring grant options that relate to welfare, rehabilitation and also general human rights that could be utilized for our services.

The Committee maintains a credible relationship with the Sindh Prison Department based on the existing structure under the committee TORS. There are clear instructions in place for the team to comply by rules and policies during prison visit.

In this regard, in case of a heatwave warning issued by the Meteorological Department, the Committee has a risk reduction strategy in place to reduce the regional office timings and suspend all prison visits until the weather situation are under control.

Risks and Challenges

Risks

The Committee collects sensitive information related to the particulars of under-trial prisoners.

In the 2022 floods in Sindh, prisons in Hyderabad and Sukkur region were impacted. As a result, 400 prisoners from Hyderabad and 500 prisoners from Sukkur were shifted to safe facilities. This impacts monthly jail visits and vakalatnamas signed.

The Committee has been receiving the same funding from the Home Department, Government of Sindh over the past 5 years. Given the current inflation and rising fuel prices the Committee has been struggling to manage its operation costs. Due to this reason our visibility in Prison has reduced.

Mitigation

The Committee assumes the responsibility of collecting sensitive information related to the particulars of under-trial prisoners, ensuring their data and identities are safeguarded.

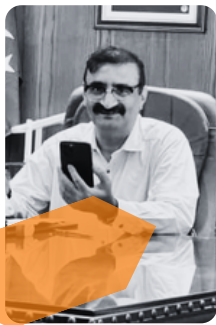
The Committee coordinates with Prison Authorities to develop mitigation strategies. The Committee also assesses the possibility to extend visit to prison facilities prisoners are relocated to or reschedules visits.

As a result, the Committee has decided to reduce prison and out of district court visits as austerity measures. Given the reduction in prison visits it is pertinent to mention that overall targets will also be reduced.

Our Management



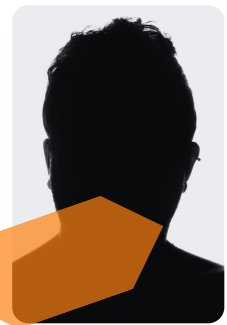
Justice (Rtd) Nasir Aslam Zahid
Chairman



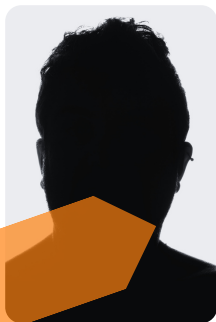
Kazi Nazeer Ahmed
I.G. Prisons Sindh



Additional Secretary (Prisons)
Home Department, Gov. of Sindh
Member



Additional Secretary Women
Development Department, Gov. of Sindh
Member



D.I.G. of Prisons Sindh
(concerned Region)
Member



Director Women
Development Department
Member



Barrister Haya Emaan Zahid
Secretary / Member

Our Team

Department	Designation	No. of Employees
Litigation	Litigation and M&E Manager	1
	Section Heads	11
	Litigation Advocates	18
	M&E Officer/ Assistant	1
	Paralegal Officer	1
	Paralegal Assistant	2
	Court Clerks	12
Program	Program Manager	1
	Program officer	1
	Research Associate	1
I.T.	I.T Coordinator	1
	I.T Officer	1
Finance	Liaisoning consultant	1
	Senior Liaison Officer	1
	Assistant Manager Finance	1
	Finance Coordinator	1
Admin	Regional Admin and Procurement Coordinator	2
	Admin & Logistic Officer	2
	Admin officer / Computer operator	6
HR	Assistant Manager HR	1
Sewing Class	Sewing Teachers	2
Early Learning Centers	ELC Teachers	2
Transport	Drivers	14
Naib Qasid	Naib Qasids	10
Total no of employees		94

**COMMITTEE
FOR THE
WELFARE OF
PRISONERS**



LEGAL AID OFFICE



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