MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Between

LEGAL RIGHTS FORUM

and

WOMEN DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT & DIRECTORATE OF WOMEN DEVELOPMENT, GOVERNMENT OF SINDH

This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is entered into between Legal Rights Forum (hereinafter to be referred as LRF), Women Development Department and Directorate of Women Development Government of Sindh Provincial office at Karachi (hereinafter to be referred as DWD). The purpose of the MOU is to from a institutional collaboration between LRF and DWD Government of Sindh to improving, amending, drafting new pro-women legislation; to promote, advocate and strengthen women's legal-social-economic empowerment and their access to justice in targeted districts of Sindh.

WHEREAS, Legal Rights Forum (LRF) is a not-for-profit national forum that strives for a progressive and inclusive society by strengthening rule of law; improving Access to Justice and Access to Health; protecting Human Rights focusing on Women, Children, Person with Disabilities, Minorities and Transgender; playing role for reforms in Criminal Justice System, Police, Labour Laws and Land Issues; promoting Democracy and Good Governance, Alternate Dispute Resolution, Public Interest Litigation, Environmental Rights, Labor Rights, Youth Empowerment and Education for All. LRF is registered under the Society Registration Act 1860 in Karachi, Sindh Pakistan.

WHEREAS, LRF having its office located at 31-C, Mezzanine Floor, Old Sunset Boulevard Phase-II, DHA, Karachi through its Executive Director Mr. Muhammad Tahir Iqbal Malik (Hereinafter referred to as ED).

Women Development Department (WDD) - Government of Sindh, in its history of existence, passed through various phases since 1979 and was formally launched as a Women Development Department in 2003 with a strong mandate focusing on women's empowerment and gender equality. The devolution has opened a widow for the DWD Sindh to play a proactive role in establishing linkages with other government departments and influencing their policies and programs for women empowerment.
The Directorate of Women Development is a field office of the Women Development Department and is headed by a Director. The main function of the Directorate is to implement policy, programs and projects of the Department in all districts of Sindh.

WHEREAS, Directorate of Women Development Department, Government of Sindh Provincial office Karachi through its Director (Herinafter referred to as Director of DWD Karachi) having its office at 9th Floor, State Life Building No.09 opposite Zainab Market, Saddar, Karachi.

NOW THEREFORE, LRF and DWD, after having conducted five meetings, have mutually agreed to establish professional linkages, coordination and cooperation on following terms and conditions:

❖ LRF will present its technical and advisory services to the WDD, particularly in the areas of Pro-Women Legislation, Improving women access to justice; Promoting Women Legal Empowerment; Combating Gender Base Violence, Ending Early Child Marriages and Acid throwing Law in Sindh.

❖ WDD will facilitate to LRF co-activities to legal empowerment of women, women access to justice, awareness on pro-women legislation and empowering women peasants etc;

❖ District Legal Aid Centers Networks (DLACs) of LRF will be providing pro-bono legal aid, legal assistance and psychosocial counselling to marginalized women such as GBV survivor, minorities and person with disabilities in targeted districts (Karachi, Hyderabad, Jamshoro, Mirpurkhas, Umerkot, Tharparkar, Thatta, Larkana, Sukkur, Naushero-Feroze, Jacobabad, Shikarpur, Matiari, Khairpur, Sanghar and Qamber Shahdadkot).

❖ LRF will provide technical support and capacity building services through training workshops to all team members Women Complaint Cells of Sindh for the purpose of legal empowerment of women.

❖ LRF will strengthen structure and services of the WDD Women Helpline 1094.

❖ LRF will extend technical support to WDD for drafting and amending pro-women legislation and legal framework focusing home based workers and Acid Crime law.

❖ WDD and LRF will also exchange information, statistics and updates regarding issues of women.
Duration:
This Memorandum of Understanding will come into effect on 1st August 2018 to 29th July 2019. This partnership can be renewed subject to the mutual consent in writing of the parties, on the same terms and conditions or agreed as mutually and modified by the Parties.

Termination:
This Memorandum of Understanding may be terminated by either party before completion of the Partnership period by giving (30) days written notice to the other party.

Arbitration:
If any dispute occurs between the parties relating to the application, interpretation, implementation or validity of this MoU, the Parties agree to seek to resolve the dispute or controversy through mediation or mutually agreed arbitrator/s.

This MoU is signed in the presence of Mr. Baqaullah Unar, Secretary WDD - Government of Sindh.

On behalf of WDD

[Signature]
Director Women Development Department
Government of Sindh

Date: ______________

On behalf of LRF

[Signature]
Mr. Muhammad Tahir Iqbal Malik Adv
Executive Director
Legal Rights Forum

Date: ______________