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ACRONYMS

AA  Action Aid
AF  Aurat Foundation
CSOs  Civil Society Organization
DJs  District and Session Judge
DLACs  District Legal Aid Centers
DRL  Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor
ECD  Early Childhood Development
ECCE  Early Child Care and Education
ECDNP  Early Childhood Development Network of Pakistan
GIZ  Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
      (German Agency for International Development)
HNP  Home Net Pakistan
JJSO  Juvenile Justice System Ordinance
LRF  Legal Rights Foundation
NOGs  Nonprofit Organizations
SDGs  Sustainable Development Goals
SJA  Sindh Judicial Academy
SOPs  Standard Operating Procedures
TAF  The Asia Foundation
UN  United Nations
UNDP  United Nations Development Programme
UNODC  United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
USAID  United State Agency for International Development
VSO  Voluntary Service Organization
WWD  Women Development Department
YOIS  Youthful Offenders Industrial School
FOREWORD

The year 2017-18 was a year of strategic thinking and planning to reorganize LRF’s programmatic approaches and to reaffirm our commitment to achieve the vision, mission and objectives of the LRF. At the same time, it resulted in bold changes that will help us deliver on that commitment for advancing and strengthening the Rule of Law; Revamping and Reforming Criminal Justice System, Improving Access to Justice; Promoting and Protecting Human Rights focusing on women, youth, children, minorities, transgender, person with disabilities; Early Childhood Development; and Sustainable Development in Pakistan.

I am proud to present LRF Annual Report 2018 that depicts its progress and also provides an overview of the work of organization from July 01, 2017 till June 30, 2018. The report covers the work of the LRF, details of the joint network, fellows, pro-bono lawyers, paralegal experts and illustrates work from our development and networking partners and affiliates.

During this year, LRF has made aware of a 108,556 people including women, children, persons with disabilities, transgender and minorities about their Legal Rights secured under the UNCRC, UDHR and The Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan. LRF has capacitated 250 fresh law graduates regarding how to draft a legal notice, bail application, criminal applications and how to protect prisoner's rights. LRF have capacitated 147 Police Officials, 30 Public Prosecutors, 20 Judicial Officers, 24 Child Protection Officers, 20 Social Welfare Officers, 5 Probation officers on developed Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) dealing with juveniles as per JJSO law for Police, Prosecution, Judiciary, Child Protection Officers, Social Welfare Officers and Probation Officers. LRF capacitated 86 women police officers to deal with women victims at Women and Children Support Desks established by Sindh Police in 11 different locations throughout Sindh. LRF also built the capacity of 65 Media Representatives on how to report human rights, women, children, minorities and transgender rights violation in rights. LRF also trained 60 youth as a peace ambassador and 20 youth as paralegal. During 2018 the District Legal Aid Centers (DLACs) of LRF provided legal assistance to 645 and legal aid 236 poor and marginalized communities especially victims of gender base violence, person with disabilities, transgender and minorities.

LRF also monitor the probation office and court room in 10 cases during the matter in process as per JJSO 2000.

During this year, there has been two major achievement of the LRF; one of its achievements was the development of JJSO SOPs for Police and Juvenile Justice Institutions after a detailed consultative process with the involvement of relevant justice stakeholders which were also notified form all the relevant departments; and secondly, the collection of civil society feedback on the Rule of Law Roadmap of Sindh.

I extend my personal tanks to all LRF’s dedicated team and reiterate my belief that, through our joint efforts, we can build a democratic, just, peaceful, and inclusive society; the vision of LRF.

Dr. Shaikh Tanveer Ahmed
Chairperson
MESSAGE FROM THE 
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The LRF, as an organization, has in fact made extensive efforts to achieve its set vision, mission and goals. I am proud and acknowledge LRF dedicated team, donors, partners, fellows, interns, volunteers, and campaigners for their sincere contribution to achieving LRF programs, projects and activities during 2017-18. During this year, LRF achieved good results in its all programs and projects. This year marks the ongoing journey of LRF towards advancing and strengthening the rule of law; Revamping and reforming Criminal Justice System, improving access to justice and promoting and protecting human rights in Pakistan.

LRF will continue to amplify the unheard voices for marginalized communities living in poverty and injustice and add value. I look forward to working with LRF team around Pakistan.

I would like to acknowledge the support and help from all justice stakeholders; especially Bar Councils/Bar Associations nationwide especially Karachi and Hyderabad Bar Association, Sindh High Court, District Judiciary, Prosecution, Police, Women Development, Social Welfare, Education, Law, Home, Prison, Probation Departments, Sindh Judicial Academy Child Protection Authority, National Human Rights Commission, Sindh Human Rights Commission, National and Provincial Commission on the Status of Women and local development partners of Pakistan. It would have not been possible for us to plan and carryout program activities and interventions without the support of all these stakeholders.

LRF is very grateful to all parliamentarians, legislature from across all political parties who have supported our efforts through law and policy reforms.

I also acknowledge the support of all mainstream print and electronic media; daily newspapers publish in Urdu, Sindhi and English.

Malik Tahir Iqbal
Executive Director
SECTION 1

Overview of Legal Rights Forum
OVERVIEW OF LEGAL RIGHTS FORUM

Who We Are?

Legal Rights Forum (LRF) is a registered not-for-profit, non-governmental organization working since 2007 and registered in Karachi (KAR No. 0076) during 2011-12 - under The Societies Registration Act, 1860.

Guided by Gender Equity and Human Rights principles and approaches, LRF envisions a Democratic, just, peaceful and inclusive Society wherein all citizens, especially women, youth, children, minorities, transgender and persons with disabilities may live under equal protection of law, self-respect and dignity. LRF works towards eradicating anomalies in the prevailing legislative framework. LRF advocates and assists governments, ministries, bureaucracy and state departments for improvement in their legal frameworks, laws, policies and practices so these could be brought into the conformity with international standards and commitments. LRF empowers and assists communities and local groups in their struggle to obtain a peaceful life of justice and dignity.

What We Do?

In order to achieve the approved organizational vision, mission and goals, LRF core focuses on issues related to rule of law; justice; legislative reforms; human rights; youth empowerment; ending violence against women, girls and children; community resilience; sustainable development; and democratic governance through research, advocacy, capacity building, mass mobilization and networking. LRF has direct outreach in Karachi, Hyderabad, Thatta, Sukkur and Jacobabad in Sindh; Lodhran and Muzaffargarh in Punjab; Quetta in Baluchistan; and Islamabad (liaison office) and a network of members/development partners around 40 districts of Pakistan who engage more than 150,000 stakeholders across Pakistan.

EXPERTISE

1. Research
2. Advocacy & Lobbying
3. Capacity Building
4. Mass Mobilization
5. Networking
6. Services
   a. Public Interest Litigation
   b. Psycho-social Support /counselling
   c. Pro-bono Legal Assistance
   d. Legal Aid to Under Trails Prisoners
   e. Rehabilitation & Reintegration of juvenile in Sindh
   f. Building Resilience
   g. Enhancing Empowerment

THEMATIC AREAS

1. Democracy and Good Governance
2. Rule of Law and Access to Justice
3. Legislative Reforms
4. Human Rights Promotion and Protection
5. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
6. Ending Violence Against Women & Girls
7. End Violence Against Children
8. Youth Empowerment
9. Strengthening Rights and Economic Empowerment of Women
10. Environment Justice
11. Sustainable Livelihoods
12. Community Resilience and Climate Change Adaptations
13. Food Security and Nutrition
14. Civil Society Support
**ORGANIZATIONAL CHART**

Governing Board
- Executive Director
  - Director Policy & Programs
    - Senior Manager-ADAL Program
      - Admin Officer
        - Finance Officer
          - Admin Staff (Receptionists, Drivers, Office Boy, Sweeper)
        - IT Officer
          - Program Officers
            - Project Coordinators
            - Internee/Volunteers
      - M & Officer
      - Advocacy Officer
        - Project Coordinators
        - Internee/Volunteer
    - Senior Manager-PASDAR Program
      - Program Officer
  - Director Admin & Finance
    - Senior Manager-ADAL Program
      - Admin Officer
        - Finance Officer
          - Admin Staff (Receptionists, Drivers, Office Boy, Sweeper)
        - IT Officer
          - Program Officers
            - Project Coordinators
            - Internee/Volunteers
      - M & Officer
      - Advocacy Officer
        - Project Coordinators
        - Internee/Volunteer
    - Senior Manager-PASDAR Program
      - Program Officer
  - Advisory Council
    - Advisory Education
      - Advisor CSSI

**LRF - GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE**

**Head Office**
- Karachi

**Liaison Office**
- Islamabad

**District Office**
- Hyderabad
- Sukkur
- Larkana
- Jacobabad
- Multan
- Muzaffargarh
- Lodhran
- Quetta
- Gilgit
CORE PROGRAMMES

In order to achieve vision, mission and strategic goals of LRF, a long term plan (2018-2030) and a short term five-year Strategic Plan (2018-22) has been developed which defines its strategy/direction, and makes decisions on allocating its resources to pursue this strategy. The LRF, over the last 10 years of its existence, has come to be recognized provincially, nationally and internationally as an effective organization for Policy Advocacy and in facilitating and advancing and strengthening demand for rule of law, improving access to justice, proving legal aid to marginalized communities and under trail prisoners, promoting and protecting human rights, public health, early childhood development and independent media for tolerance aimed at a democratic, just, peaceful and inclusive society. LRF has so far been working on a number of thematic areas. In line with its strategic goals for the period of 2018-2022, LRF stared consolidating its thematic work into three key core programmes and the programme work of LRF currently falls in its following key guiding core programme pillars:

1. ADAL Programme comprises themes related to democracy, rule of law, access to justice, good governance and legislative reforms.
2. PASDAR Programme comprises themes, related to sustainable development, poverty reduction, human rights protection, climate change, food security and sustainable environment and livelihoods.
3. CSSI Programme comprises Civil Society support activities such as Baithak & Sunehray Din

CORE ORGANIZATION VALUES

1. Transparency
2. Peace & Tolerance
3. Collective Wisdom
4. Accountability
5. Mutual Respect
6. Gender Equality
7. Non-Violence
8. Independence
9. Humility
10. Commitment
11. Sharing & Openness
12. Equity and Justice
13. Integrity
14. Decision Making
15. Solidarity with People living in Poverty and Exclusion
LRF carried out 14 different projects under thematic areas during 2017-2018

Access to Justice for vulnerable communities in Pakistan for Hyderabad and Karachi by The Asia Foundation supported by US DRL State Department

Advocacy and awareness on REAT by TAF supported by INL

Strengthening Local Government and Community Networks to Reduce Violence against Marginalized Groups through Access to Justice for Vulnerable Groups in Pakistan for Hyderabad (Mirpurkhas, Umerkot and Mithi) and Karachi by TAF supported by US DRL State Department

Right to Fair Trail and Due Process of Law, provincial advocacy in Sindh by Insaf Network Pakistan supported by US DRL State Department

Supporting Mechanism for Vulnerable Groups (women and juveniles) in Criminal Justice System in Sindh supported by GIZ

Development of Social and Legal Index for Women and Children Support Desk established by Sindh Police supported by GIZ

Training project: organizing training workshops in collaboration with Sindh Police for women police officials in Karachi, Hyderabad and Sukkur Region.

Health as a Fundamental Rights Public advocacy in collaboration with Public Health Movement, National Commission on Human Rights Pakistan and HANDS, Pakistan.

Development of Training Manual on Tax Justice Training Manual for HANDS supported by Action Aid Pakistan.


Critical Analysis of the Sindh Child Marriage Restraint Act (SCMRA)-2013 for Alliance Against Child Marriages supported by Rutgers, Pakistan.

Institutionalization of Legal Aid Mechanism in Sindh towards establishment of “Sindh Legal Aid Authority” in provincial advocacy self-initiative by Legal Rights Forum

Development of Training Manual on “Training of Trainers on Legal Empowerment of Women in Sindh” for HANDS, Pakistan supported by Government Sindh

Provincial Advocacy on Early Childhood Development in Sindh in collaboration with by ECDNP supported by Open Society Foundation (OSF)
LRF has made extensive efforts to achieve its set vision, mission and goals. One of its achievements was the development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for police and juvenile institutions after a detailed consultative process with the involvement of relevant stakeholders. In the process of developing these SOPs, two consultative workshops were organized with the collaboration with the Sindh Judicial Academy (SJA). The developed SOPs aim to enhance the capacity of concerned officials to deal with juveniles as per JJSO. The SOPs for Juvenile Justice Institutions were praised and endorsed by all the Institutions because of its reader friendly design and easy-to-understand text. LRF not only got endorsements but the concerned government departments have also made commitments to ensure the implementation of SOPs.

Development of Juvenile Management Information System (JMIS) of an electronic database for juvenile cases management which is being termed as a vital breakthrough for the data management of juvenile cases and same handover the superintendent home department. A groundbreaking study on “Analysis of Fair Trial and Due Process of Law for the Under-Trial Juvenile Prisoners as per the Juvenile Justice System Ordinance, 2000” Provincial Conference on “Access to Justice for Vulnerable Groups in Criminal Justice System in Sindh” on 26th of April 2018 in Karachi.
LRF organized a Networking Meeting on 'Institutionalization of Legal Aid Mechanism in Sindh' in Karachi on September 26, 2017 with its counterparts in Government of Sindh, Sindh High Courts, District Judiciary, Sindh Bar Council, Sindh High Court, Bar Association and Civil Society Development partners.

In 2017-18 LRF provided services such as Legal advice, legal assistance and psycho-social counselling to 236 Victims of GBV, Person with disabilities and Minorities in Karachi, Hyderabad, Thatta, Jacobabad, Sukkur, Lodhran, Muzzafargarh, Multan and Quetta. During the reporting period, LRF organised nine Community meetings and ten Mobile Legal Clinics in which the developed and printed information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials. LRF also organised two Fund Raising Events in Hyderabad and Karachi to provide sustainability to the District Legal Aid Centre (DLAC), earlier established under this Project.

LRF conducted a research study on 'Critical Analysis of the Sindh Child Marriage Restraint Act (SCMRA)-2013' during 2017. This study aimed to analyze SCMRA in the light of caseload to date in Sindh and carry out an in-depth analysis of registered cases under the SCMRA.


LRF had the opportunity during this period to have been selected as Interim Secretariat of the Sindh Chapter of Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAWG) Alliance for six months from January to June 2018. EVAWG-Sindh Chapter is a provincial network of civil society organizations and individuals doing policy advocacy/lobbying for ending violence against women and girls. A National Chapter of the EVAWG-Alliance is also working in Islamabad since 2008 with the conceptual, technical and coordination support of UN Women and active engagement of lead social activists.

LRF and UN Women organized a Policy Dialogue on Acid Crimes and related legislation in Sindh on May 24, 2018 in Karachi. This Policy Dialogue was organized under the EVAWG-Sindh Chapter to bring together all stakeholders to brainstorm on range of issue related to Acid Crimes in Sindh; expedite the momentum to finalize pending Acid Crime law in Sindh Assembly and discuss roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders; strengthen the demand for Acid Crime law in Sindh and develop a CSOs charter of demand; and discuss gaps in the draft law and suggest possible improvement to the Women Development Department (WDD) and Sindh Commission on the Status of Women.
LRF produced a “Training of Trainers Manual on Legal Empowerment of Women in Sindh” aiming at the enhancement of the protection of women and improving the response of Criminal Justice System towards women in Sindh through building the capacity in this regards of Master Trainers.
LRF is an active Member of the Pakistan Forum on Democratic Policing (PFDP) and has won the election of PFDP-Sindh Chapter Secretariat for one year 2017-18. PFDP is a civil society's initiative for police reforms in Pakistan. PFDP aims to advocate for democratic reforms in Pakistan's police institutions as well as police laws and help make it a priority of public policy through facilitating dialogues, assisting the state and building pressure on policy makers for more citizen-centric police institutions.

LRF & PFDP, in collaboration with Department of Criminology at University of Karachi, organized a seminar on November 21, 2017 on 'Role and Importance of Community Policing to combating Gender Based Violence'.

Listed below are the salient activities carried out by LRF as a Secretariat of PFDP:

1. Meeting held at LRF office on November 15, 2017 with an Amplify Change / Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) delegation.

2. LRF & PFDP, in collaboration with Department of Criminology at University of Karachi, organized a seminar on November 21, 2017 on 'Role and Importance of Community Policing to combating Gender Based Violence'.

3. In continuation of advocacy campaign titled 'My Police for Me' during 16 Days of Activism, LRF organized a theater performance on December 08, 2017 at Karachi Arts Council.

4. On December 15, 2017, LRF organized a press conference at Karachi press club in order to report all activities conducted by the PFDP members of Sindh Province during their advocacy campaign titled 'My Police for Me' across Sindh province.

Recently, as of April 01, 2018, LRF has launched a Project on ‘Strengthening Local Government and Community Networks to Reduce Violence against Marginalized Groups through Access to Justice for Vulnerable Groups in Pakistan’ based in Hyderabad (Hyderabad will cover Mirpurkhs, Umerkot, Mithi and Tharparkar) and Karachi. LRF has organized 20 joint network meeting in Hyderabad, Mirpurkhas, Umerkot & Karachi.

LRF has also organized 06 training workshops for youth as peace Ambassador. LRF has capacitate 120 youth as a Peace Ambassador in Hyderabad, Mirpurkhas, Umerkot & Karachi.

LRF has also sensitize 65 media representative to report the GBV minorities and persons with disabilities.

LRF also organize community awareness sessions to ending gender based violence in Sindh.
Programme Activities
LRF, during 2017-18, has carried out a number activity under its various programmes and thematic areas. Given next is a brief account of some significant activities in this regards. Activities are given under main Thematic Areas of LRF.

( Rule of Law and Access to Justice )

Consultative Meeting on Rule of Law Reform Agenda

LRF and Peace and Justice Network organized Provincial Consultative Meeting on "Rule of Law Reform Agenda" on March 28, 2018 at LRF office, Karachi. In this meeting Barrister Shahida Jamil, former Federal Law Minister for Law and Human Rights, Pakistan, Mr. Professor Akmal Wasim, Mr. Shahid Shafique, District and Session Judge/Senior Faculty Member of Sindh Judicial Academy, Mr. Shoiab Safdar, Assistant Prosecutor General Sindh, Ms. Tabassum Rani Advocate Sindh High Court, Mr. Saleem Abbasi, Advocate Sindh High Court, SPO, Mr. Krishna Raju, Visionary Foundation, Mr. Manzoor Ahmed form LRF, Representative of Action Aid Pakistan and Ms. Mehwish Hina of LRF were present in this consultative meeting.

Mr. Raza Ali, Executive Director, PJN thanks LRF providing technical support on national rule of law reforms agenda. He said that LRF will lead Sindh Province on the said agenda. He said that through extensive consultative process at national and provincial level with technical experts from Bar Council, Bar Association, Judiciary, Government departments, Policy think-tanks, private sector and civil society organizations representatives draft outline an eleven points national rule of law reform agenda charter of demands as a discussion document for stakeholders that will eventually be submitted to political parties to consider as an integral part of their manifesto policy commitments. He shared that 11 points agenda charter of demand are following:

1. Ascertaining Demand and Needs
2. Strengthening the Rule of law Sector
4. Oversight and Inspections
5. Enhancing Access to Justice
6. Strengthening Enforcement & Implementation through Administrative Justice
7. Strengthening Constitutional Governance & ROL
8. Mobilizing the Demand-side
9. Compensating for State Failure
10. Civil Service Reforms
11. Enhancing Budgets for Reform
Launch of Project on Supporting Mechanism for Vulnerable Groups in Criminal Justice System

LRF organized the project launching ceremony on October 19, 2017 at Pearl Continental Hotel, Karachi. The objective of the event was to invite all relevant Juvenile Actors and Women Justice Stakeholders to brief them about the Project goals and objectives and kick start the project activities with their consent.

The Launching Ceremony has had two sessions; first session on project launching ceremony and second session was the penal discussion. More than 80 participants from Judiciary, Karachi Bar Association, Sindh Bar Council, Police, Prosecution, Medico Legal, Social Welfare, Women Development, Home Department, Academia, Universities student, Media and Civil Society participated in the launching ceremony and took great interest in project details.

Development of JJSO SOPs

LRF has long been striving to strengthen implementation of laws and policies with a view to strengthen and ensure rule of law and access to justice, especially for marginalized sections of society, notably women and children. One of the achievements of the ADAL Programme was the development of SOPs for juvenile justice state actors as per Juvenile Justice System Ordinance (JJSO), 2000. As per baseline data, there were no any Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) as per law in place for the juvenile justice state actors who deal with juveniles. The SOPs were developed with an aim to enhance the capacity of concerned officials of the Sindh to deal with juveniles as per Juvenile Justice System Ordinance (JJSO), 2000. LRF have subsequently published the finalized SOPs in English as well as in Urdu languages.

During the process of developing these SOPs, two consultative workshops were held in collaboration with the Sindh Judicial Academy (SJA) in which LRF engaged all the state actors playing role in juvenile justice system and developed SOPs with their consultation.
Capacity Building of State Actors on JJSO SOPs

Later, LRF organized two Training Workshops in Karachi for the nominated officers of Police, Probation, Social Welfare and prosecution Departments and the Judiciary to build the capacity of police and juvenile justice institutions to deal with juveniles as per JJSO, 2000.

The first training workshop was held on April 13, 2018 at SJA, Karachi that was attended by the Officers from Sindh Police Department (operations and investigation units), Probation Department (Probation Officers) and Social Welfare Department (Social Welfare Officers and Child Protection Officers). Workshops were interactive and the participants acknowledged the sessions held.

The second training workshop was attended by the officers of the Prosecution Department (Prosecutors) and Sindh High Court (Judicial Officers). At the outset, Mr. Malik Tahir Iqbal, Executive Director, Legal Rights Foundation (LRF) welcomed the participants and shared the process involved in the development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for Police and Juvenile Institutions.

Hon'ble Director General, Sindh Judicial Academy chaired the both Consultative Workshops and welcomed the participants and appreciated the efforts of LRF team involved in developing SOPs for Police and Juvenile Institutions to Enhance their Capacity. He encouraged the participants to actively participate in sessions and understand SOPs, so that they can implement the JJSO 2000 in its true spirit while dealing with juvenile justice.

During Group Work, the groups discussed and recorded their ongoing practices to deal with juveniles and compared it with the SOPs mandated by the JJSO. Later, the focal persons of the three groups made their group presentations. On each group presentation, the training experts elaborated about what they (Police, Probation, Social Welfare and Child Protection Officers) have not been doing as per JJSO and they suggested a number of ways to improve mutual coordination and follow the steps mentioned in SOPs for better welfare of the children who are in conflict with law.
Pilot Study on Fair Trial and Due Process & Monitoring of Juvenile Court Cases

LRF, being one of the prominent legal rights organizations in Sindh Province, completed a groundbreaking study on “Analysis of Fair Trial and Due Process of Law for the Under-Trial Juvenile Prisoners as per the Juvenile Justice System Ordinance, 2000” under its project on “Supporting Mechanism for Vulnerable Groups in Criminal Justice System”.

In view of the fact that the Juvenile Justice System Ordinance (JJSO), 2000 is currently the major law dealing with children in conflict with law in Pakistan; this study presents an analysis of the real application and practice of JJSO in 50 juvenile court cases in Karachi in the light of actual parameters, as defined and available in the law. Despite limitations of the study, the document provides a picture about the real applicability of the JJSO in Sindh Province. Furthermore, the study also offers a platform that may help the other researchers to further explore the topic.

LRF strongly believes that the Right to Fair Trial is one of the cornerstones of a just society. The analysis of the juvenile court cases to assess fair trial and due process of law as per JJSO is a part of LRF’s endeavor to recognize juvenile’s rights to receive frail trial and treatment in the criminal justice system.

Provincial Conference on Access to Justice for Vulnerable Groups

LRF, with the support of GIZ-CIS II, organized a Provincial Conference on Access to Justice for Vulnerable Groups in Criminal Justice System in Sindh on 26th of April 2018 at Pearl Continental Hotel, Karachi. The primary purpose of the event was to share with key government and civil society key stakeholders the major milestones achieved and further to initiate the holistic discourse on issues and challenges of access to justice for Juvenile in criminal justice system among government and civil society actors as way forward.

This Provincial conference was attended by more than 100 participants including Head of Program of GIZ-CIS II, Home Secretary Sindh, DG Sindh Judicial Academy, Secretary P&D, Board Member, Social Welfare Department, Secretary Women Justice Sindh High Court Mr. Muhammad Ali Mazhar addressing the Provincial Conference
Development Department, Member National Commission on Human Rights, Chairperson Sindh Commission on Status of Women, President Karachi Bar Association, Member Sindh Bar Council, MIT Sindh High Court, representative of IG Prison, DIG Police Training, Additional Prosecutor General Sindh, Former IGP Sindh, Chairperson Sindh Human Rights Commission, UNDP Coordinator SDGs Unit Sindh, university students and representatives of the civil society organizations, academia, lawyer forums and media.

Dr. Astrid Bosch, Head of Program-German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ-CIS II); Mr. Malik Tahir Iqbal, Executive Director LRF; Mr. Qazi Shahid Pervez, Secretary Home Department Government of Sindh; Honorable Justice Sindh High Court Mr. Muhammad Ali Mazhar; Justice Khillji Arif Hussain, Director General-Sindh Judiciary Academy; Justice Majida Razvi, Chairperson Sindh Human Rights Commission; Mr. Abdul Razaq, MIT Sindh High Court; Ms. Aliya Shahid, Secretary Social Welfare Department-Government of Sindh; Mr. Niaz Ahmed Siddiki, former IG Sindh Police; and Mr. Sharjeel Kharal, DIG Training Sindh Police were the Guest Speakers.
Legal Rights Forum

Annual Report 2018

Legal Rights Forum

Strengthening the Rule of Law

Additional Prosecutor General Sindh Mr. Saleem Akhtar, P&D Board Member Ms. Rehana Memon, Secretary WDD Mr. Haroon Ahmed, Member NCHR Ms. Anis Haroon, President Karachi Bar Association Mr. Haider Imam Rizvi, Member Sindh Bar Council Mr. Naeeem Qureshi, Superintendent-Special Prison for Women Karachi Ms. Sheeba Shah, Senior Technical Advisor GIZ-CIS II Mr. Shuakat Ali, Chairperson Sindh Commission on the Status of Women Ms. Nuzhat Shirin, UNDP Coordinator SDGs Unit Sindh Mr. Naveed Sheikh, Director Programs LRF Mr. Tahir Hasnain Shah and Technical Advisor Police Support GIZ-CIS II Mr. Ghulam Ali also spoke in the event.

Semi-Formal Justice Mechanism

LRF developed a Training Manual on “Provision of Justice in Local Government Act and other related Legal Frameworks” for Sindh Agricultural & Forestry Workers Coordinating Organization (SAFWCO) who wanted to develop it for a planned series of one-day Training Workshops for Community based volunteers and members of community groups to raise their awareness about the laws available in Pakistan related to semi-formal justice provision in local government act, police act or other laws and educate people on the processes to access semi-formal justice mechanisms. These trainings were anticipated to enable members of groups to raise awareness among communities and provide their facilitation in guiding them to access legal aid mechanisms in order to legally empower citizens through legal literacy and awareness around provision of formal and semi-formal justice mechanisms to improve their access to justice.

In this regards, the LRF team focused on the most recent local government act, police act and other laws that have provision of SFJS and extracted the main features of the local government act and other laws etc. The study also provided a detailed and easy to understand overview of the provision of semi-legal justice mechanisms and described the processes in a sequential manner keeping in mind the audience of the manual. Lastly, the Training Manual provided session plans for the training and awareness.

Later on the LRF Trainers, Mr. Malik Tahir Iqbal and Mr. Tahir Hasnain Shah, conducted one-day Training of Trainers (TOT) of the project staff of SAFWCO at Hyderabad. Training was conducted based on brainstorming, interactive discussions, experience sharing, role playing, sharing of case studies, group work, and group and individual presentations by the participants. All the sessions were made interactive to ensure the interest and active participation of the participants.
Access to Justice for Vulnerable

LRF has implemented Sindh component of the USAID project on “Access to Justice for Vulnerable Populations in Pakistan”. District Legal Aid Centers (DLACs) were established under this initiative.

During 2017-18, LRF also conducted activities under another project on Strengthening Local Government & Community Networks to Reduce Violence against Religious Minorities and Vulnerable Groups. In this regards, the District Legal Aid Center (DLAC) Hyderabad organized Community Meeting on June 12, 2017 with Hindu, Muslims and Christians. The purpose of the meeting was awareness raising on fundamental rights of vulnerable groups and to increase access to justice for vulnerable groups.

District Legal Aid Center (DLAC) Hyderabad also organized a “Fund Raising Musical Concert” in Hyderabad on July 30, 2017 with the Support of civil society of Hyderabad. One of the key aims of DLAC is awareness-raising on fundamental rights of vulnerable groups and to increase access to justice for vulnerable groups. The specific purpose of this event was to generate funds for vulnerable Community of Hyderabad for their Legal Aid & Psycho-social support. The event was attended by people from diverse school of thought.
LEGAL ASSISTANCE AND
PSYCHO-SOCIAL SUPPORT

LRF has vibrant District Legal Aid Centers (DLACs) in Karachi, Hyderabad, Thatta, Sukkur, Lodhran, Muzzafargah & Quetta. The focus of the LRF-DLACs is to provide legal aid, legal assistance and psycho-social support and strengthening awareness within this area. The facilities available in DLACs are:

- Helpline
- Legal assistance / advices
- Legal clinics
- Referral system/ partners
- Paralegals / Human Rights Defenders
- Capacity Building (for CSOs, Survivors, Lawyers, Judicial Officers and Police)

- Counseling
- Court representation
- Psycho social support
- Mediation / Reconciliation
- Public Interest Litigations

DLACs had provided legal assistance to 645 and legal aid to 236 marginalized communities women, children, minorities, person with disabilities, transgender and to those who are unable to access formal justice system due to their limited means. Till to date thousands of cases have been facilitated by LRF-DLACs referred by various Civil Society Organizations, District and Sessions Judges, District Bar Associations, Remand Home, Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women Centers and Ministry of Human Rights.

Under project on 'Strengthening Local Governments and Community Networks to Reduce Violence against Marginalized Groups' LRF worked towards political empowerment of marginalized groups and reduce violence against them in Pakistan. Through this project DLACs has provided Legal Assistance and Psycho-Social Support services to survivors of gender based violence (GBV), children, religious and ethnic minorities, and persons with disabilities.

Separately, LRF has also provided Legal Assistance and Psycho-Social Support to 10 prisoners and 50 juveniles in Sindh.
**Critical Analysis of the Sindh Child Marriage Restraint Act 2013**

The existing legal framework on child marriages in Sindh is not implemented in its true spirit and child marriages continue to occur across the province. In an effort to figure out the causes behind this phenomenon, LRF has conducted subject study with aim to in-depth analysis of registered cases under SCRMA-2013; highlight the gapes and lacunas in the implementation of the SCRMA; to underline the gaps and issues facing its implementation; analysis case registration and litigation procedures and impacts on justice delivery mechanism for victims of child marriages; to extend recommendations for its effective implementation. This in-depth analysis will be very useful for the policy advocacy and lobbying with state actors, academia, researchers, and child rights activists.

This study has been conducted by Mr. Malik Tahir Iqbal; a human rights advocate and Executive Director of Legal Rights Forum (LRF) along with Mr. Tahir Hasnain Shah, the Director Programs at LRF.

**Consultative Session on Status of Early Childhood Development in Sindh**

Early Child Development Network-Pakistan (ECDNP) is a network of organizations and individuals whose Programme approached relate to ECD, founded on June 20, 2012 formally registered in 2014. ECDNP is a registered national alliance of ECD stakeholders in Pakistan. ECDNP working with the mission to develop understanding amongst all stakeholders/caregivers about concepts of holistic and inclusive ECD practices; to help government to realize and define key role of its ministries in promotion of holistic and inclusive development of all children; to strengthen sharing of best practices and resources and collaborations among ECD stakeholders; to collaborate with stakeholders for investments in a promotion of ECD services, material development, and thematic research grants.

ECDNP is engaging the stakeholders across Pakistan from public, private and community sectors to develop policy recommendations for promoting holistic Early Childhood Development (ECD) from pre-natal to 8 years old, to bridge a critical policy gap. ECDNP in collaboration with these and international partners organized the 1st National Conference on Early Childhood Care & Education (ECCE) in Islamabad on 27th & 28th March 2017 under the
theme of: ’Envisioning Holistic Early Childhood Care and Education for Pakistan: Creating an Equitable, Pluralistic and Sustainable Society’.

LRF is a founder member of ECNDP. ENDP and LRF design project on Promoting Holistic Early Childhood Development and Education for Pakistan. LRF in collaboration with ECNDP organized consultative workshops. The main purpose of these workshops is to support federal and provincial governments and other stakeholders in Pakistan to extend their 'Promotion of holistic ECD' and 'Right to Education' mandate to cover prenatal to 8 years of ECD, which is partially existent in the national and provincial policies and budgetary plans. ECNDP organized 4 provincial and one federal level consultative workshops.

LRF and ECNDP also organized one Consultative Workshop on “Reducing the Risk of Violence against Children during the Early Years” on Feb 10, 2018 at PC Hotel Karachi. The event covered many ECD topics including Province level Policy Gaps and Solutions.

**LRF observed International Children Day**

LRF in collaboration with Child Protection Authority and Social Welfare Department jointly observed International Children Day on November 20, 2017. LRF developed voice messages for child rights protection and rights base slogans and posters for awareness. LRF presented shields to civil society activists to recognize their contributions in the field of Child Rights and Child Protection.
Youth Mobilization and Empowerment

LRF has developed Youth Empowerment Programme and inducted youth as a peace ambassadors across Sindh. LRF has signed MOUs with different colleges and Universities for engaging youth.

In this regards, LRF signed a University of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Department of Criminology of University of Karachi on November 17, 2017. The purpose of this MOU was to engage youth in Rule of Law and Access to Justice and to establish a relationship between LRF and the Criminology Department to impart the knowledge and work together in the best interest of society. Soon after the signing of MOU, LRF organized a seminar at the Conference Hall of Criminology Department, University of Karachi. Subsequently, LRF organized two Provincial Conferences in which the students of the Department of Criminology were invited and they attended quite positively and overwhelmingly.

Youth Peace Ambassadors Meeting

LRF has inducted Youth Peace Ambassadors across Sindh. LRF has also conducted Youth Peace Ambassadors training workshops in Karachi, Hyderabad, Mirpurkhas, Mithi, Umerkot and Sukkur. These meeting were conducted with the objective to orient them about the role of youth in strengthening the local governments and community networks in order to reduce violence against religious minorities and other vulnerable groups and improve access to justice.

In this regards, LRF conducted Youth Peace Ambassadors meeting in Karachi on May 28, 2018. Meeting was attended by a total 28 participants including youth groups, students, activists, lawyers and representatives of various civil society organizations.
Acid Crime and Related Legislation in Sindh

Legal Rights Forum (LRF) organized the event ‘Acid Crime and Related Legislation in Sindh’ on behalf of Sindh Chapter of Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAW/G) Alliance. Participants concluded that Acid Crime is worst form of Gender Based Violence lacking legislative support at provincial level to properly rehabilitate the victims and create deterrence for perpetrators.

The event was attended by more than 130 participants across the Sindh Province and an extensive dialogue on this most heinous crime was held among the legal fraternity, judiciary, relevant government departments, civil society organizations, academia and social activists. This Provincial level dialogue was led by a group of panelist having prominent background in legislative reforms.

The guest speakers included Ms. Suman Ahsan of UN Women; Mr. Shahid Shafiq, District & Sessions Judge; Ms. Barrister Shahida Jamil; Mr. Haroon Ahmed, Secretary WDD; Justice Khilji Arif Hussain, DG, Sindh Judicial Academy; Justice Ali Aslam Jafri, Senior Faculty Member, Sindh Judicial Academy; Ms. Nuzhat Shirin, Chairperson Sindh Commission on the Status of Women; Mr. Naeem Qureshi, Member Sindh Bar Council; Dr. Qarar Abbasi, Senior Medico Legal Officer; Dr. Mumtaz Khaskheli, Sindh University; and Mr. Malik Tahir Iqbal, Executive Director, LRF.

Institutionalization of Legal Aid Mechanism in Sindh

LRF organized the Networking Meeting of Stakeholders on 26th September 2017 at Avari Towers Karachi that was chaired by Ms. Justice (R) Majida Razvi, Chairperson of Sindh Human Rights Commission Sindh. There were 22 participants including senior members from Bar, Bench, Civil Society and Government Departments.
mechanism, however their access and process seems to be very cumbersome. The government provides these funds for the support of poor and needy litigants but there is only an internal monitoring mechanism by the organizations. There is, hence, a grave need for an effective external monitoring by a third party. It was shared that generally NGOs and some INGOs are providing free or subsidized legal aid support to needy people who receive funds from different donor agencies.

Mr. Malik Tahir Iqbal emphasized that there is a genuine need for institutionalization of supporting mechanism by establishing a unified Legal Aid Authority just like similar authorities present in other neighboring countries i.e. Sri Lanka, India, etc. He suggested that since Sindh Human Rights Commission is now on board and is actively pursuing vital pending issues of law and justice, it must take the lead for this initiative.

Participants unanimously endorsed the idea and added that a common person should know where the financial aid is available and how quick he/she can get it. A competent authority has to be established with its rules and regulations and quick disposal of funds, where all funds/financial allocations must come under one umbrella. The authority must commonly be known to general public. Addressing to a query, it was also pointed out that authority will be based at Sindh level.

All the meeting participants appreciated the idea and requested the LRF to play role in coordination. The suggestion for forming a Working Group to coordinate and struggle for the establishment of a unified Legal Aid Authority in Sindh province was welcomed and LRF was asked to write a letter to all stakeholders and request nomination of a focal person for this Working Group. The Working Group will work on establishment of Legal Aid Authority (LAA) at province level with its rules and regulation.

**LRF's Role in Government Legislative Committees**

LRF is member of a number of Government Legislative Committees and it has attended several meetings and advocated on civil society perspective on specific laws and policies of the Government of Sindh.

Listed below are brief details of meetings attended by LRF during 2017-18:

   a. Ensures that Human Rights and women Rights issues are integrated in the curricula of police and judicial training academies and legal training institutes;
b. Ensures mainstreaming of Human Rights issues in all curricula of educational institutions at all level in collaboration with Education and Ministry.

2. Government of Sindh, Sindh Commission on the Status of Women has notified “Law Committee” notification No. SO (G) WDD/SCSW/2017 in exercise of powers conferred under section 14 (2) of Sindh Commission on the Status of Women Act, 2015. The mandate of the Law Committee shall assist in reviewing, amending and drafting laws and policies; and all other legislative matters as required by the Commission.

3. Inspector General of Prisons, Sindh to state that the Superintendent of Youthful Offenders Industrial Schools (YOIS) in Sindh Province have furnished NO Objection Certificate to LRF whenever LRF wants to provide psycho-social support and legal assistance to juvenile in all YOIS in Sindh by Notification No. 8199/8207 on 09 April 2018.

4. Home Department Government of Sindh has awarded NO Objection Certificate to LRF in order to carry out the activities at Remand Home, Karachi focusing on psycho-social support and legal assistance to juveniles in Remand Home. The NOC was signed by Incharge Superintendent Remand Home at Home Department, Karachi letter No. REG (HD)/ 9-111/18 (RH) dated 20-03-2018.

5. School Education and Literacy Department, Government of Sindh issued a Notification No. SO (G-111) SED/HCW/154/38692018 in accordance to the Article 08 of the Sindh Prohibition of Corporal Punishment Act 2016, that the School Education and Literacy Department is pleased to notify a committee to develop the Rules of Business of the Same Act. TORs of the Committee: 1) Review the existing Acts and Policies pertaining to the subject 2) Drafted ROBs of Sindh Prohibition of Corporal Punishment Act 2016.

6. Government Sindh, Women Development Department has notified a Provincial Monitoring Committee on Child Marriages, Notification No. SO. WD/WDD/2-100/2017: In supervision to this departments notification of even number dated 02-08-2017 and in exercise of powers conferred U/S 24 of Sind Child Marriage Restraint Rules 2016. The TORs of the Committee is following; Review Law time to time, call for specific study, mobilized for grants from domestic and international source and oversee the District Monitoring Committees.

**Women Rights and Empowerment**

**International Women's Day, 2018**

The theme for International Women's Day for the year 2018 was “Time is Now: Rural and urban activists transforming women's lives”. In Pakistan Governments, Ministries, Departments related to women and Civil Society Organization such as Legal Rights Forum, Aurat Foundation, HNADS, SPO and others have celebrated this day to commemorate International Women's Day on March 08, 2018 and its theme for year 2018.

LRF has celebrated the International Women's Day 2018 along with Government of Sindh and others Civil Society Organizations. LRF actively participated and had been part of consortium that appreciated the contributions made by individuals for the betterment of women in their respective professions. In a provincial convention in Karachi, LRF presented awards to those
mid-career men and women who had brilliant contributions to ending violence against women and children in Pakistan. This year, 14 persons were awarded shields and appreciation certificates.

**Women Land Rights**

LRF supports land rights of landless peasants and haris. LRF hosts Women Right to Land Network and together with the Network partners LRF is working at all levels with rural women to strengthen their control over land and natural resources. LRF carry out advocacy and lobbying for legal framework and policy change. LRF is focusing on documenting and sharing best practices, raising awareness on land grabbing and providing pro-bono legal assistance to protect their land rights. LRF also provides legal support to women landless peasants who received public land in Sindh Pakistan because after receiving the public land they faced many issues and challenges concerning the policy adopted by government; the local landlords and influentials. LRF conducted a study on “Women Public Land Grantees in Sindh: Issues, Challenges and Recommendations” with the financial support of Actionaid Pakistan.

On behalf of the Women Right to Land Network, LRF wrote a letter to Chief Minister Sindh and requested the Government of Sindh to start 3rd phase of land distribution under the landless
haris project for poor landless women farmers of Sindh. The letter was dispatched on August 15, 2017. The Chief Minister has responded positively on the letter and notices have been issued to a number of related Government departments to solicit their comments. LRF is pursuing the case and is monitoring the process in this regards.

Training of Trainers Manual on Legal Empowerment of Women in Sindh

LRF produced Training of Trainers Manual on Legal Empowerment of Women in Sindh aiming at the enhancement of the protection of women and improving the response of Criminal Justice System towards women in Sindh through building the capacity in this regards of Master Trainers.

The Manual involves research on Human Right Concepts, History and Situation in Sindh; International human rights Conventions Ratified by Government of Pakistan; and Gender Concepts & Understanding on Violence against Women. It then involved a detailed account of legal frameworks such as the Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan, 1973; General Laws; Personal Laws; Special Laws; and Present Situation of Pro-women Laws in Sindh. At the end, the manual outlines the Training Requirements, Methodology and a 05 day Sessions Plan.

Legal empowerment strategies can be successfully used for improving women's access to justice in both formal and informal justice systems if the Master Trainers are sensitized and engaged in this mission. When Master Trainers are informed of women rights and encouraged to make women aware of laws and practices, they can put pressure on justice systems to better protect basic rights of women.

The trainings based on this Training Manual are likely to mobilize a group of gender experts as trainers by building their capacity on gender equality, women legal empowerment and human rights issues in Sindh. The main objective of the Training Manual was to increase the knowledge and understanding of participants on gender equality, pro-women laws, women empowerment and human rights; to create a network of gender and women rights expert advocates who will push the gender equality and women socio-legal empowerment agenda in the Sindh, Pakistan.

It is strongly anticipated that the trained Master Trainers will conduct further trainings in future for different target group such as women development department team, women councilors, women development communities and civil society organizations.

National Coordinator for Bar Council and Bar Associations (Sindh)

LRF served as National Coordinator for Bar Council and Bar Associations (Sindh and Punjab) under the Gender Equity Program supported by USAID for enhancing gender equity by expending women access to justice and women human rights across Pakistan. The project ended in 31st August 2017. The objectives of the project have been:
To improve women access to justice by capacitating and strengthening the role of DBAs.

To accomplish protecting women legal rights, encouraging pro-bono services to women litigants and facilitation of information hubs for women legal assistance.

To gender sensitization of elected representatives of Bar Councils and District Bar Associations and its lawyers for women empowerment, gender equality, women accessing to justice at grass roots level.

LRF organized 02 National Grant Opening Meetings in Lahore and Karachi with district Partners. LRF also conducted two 5-days Training of Trainer (ToT) workshops. In both TOTs, 18 Master Trainers were trained on “Gender approach to Justice” selected by district partner organizations from four 04 districts of Sindh and 05 districts of Punjab. 18 Masters Trainers replicated 93 one-day training workshops and trained 1,404 advocates (1087 male and 319 female). Later, two 3-days Mid-Terms Refreshers Course of TOT were organized. Two Regional Coordination Meetings were also organized, one in Islamabad for Punjab Regional Partners and second in Karachi for Sindh Regional Partners. One National Coordination Meeting was organized with all 09 partners including GEP National team as well as provincial team members were also invited. Two Regional Dialogues, one in Lahore and one in Karachi, were organized on “Women Access to Justice: De Jure and De Facto”. All justice stakeholders such as Bar Council, Bar Association, Judiciary, Police, Prosecution, Member Parliamentarians, Media representatives, Academia, CSOs and NGOs were invited in Dialogues. After the completion of the grants, all the District Bar Association representatives showed their commitment to lead and sustain these interventions.

LRF Celebrated 16 Days of Activism

As part of the Global advocacy campaign “16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence (GBV)”, LRF and Sindh Chapter of Pakistan Forum on Democratic Policing (PFDP) organized the campaign 2017 (from 25 November to 10 December) and hosted several activities under the name of ‘My Police for Me’ across Sindh with the support of Police Department, Kiosk and Information Desks will be established Women support group will be founded. Resource Centers will be established Kiosk and Information Desks will be established Legal Assistance will be provided to survivor of gender base violence (70 in each District, 70x9=630)
Sindh Human Rights Commission, Sindh Commission on the Status of Women and various educational institutions. In this regards, a number of activities including seminars; dialogues between policy makers and police officers; theatre performances; audio and video messages on community policing showing zero tolerance attitude towards Gender Based Violence; community visits to police stations; police and community cricket match aiming to create soft image of police in general public; raising awareness towards police reforms; strengthening police-community ties; and community mobilization and lobbying for improved police resourcing and training to respond the incident of GBV. Through these diverse activities, hundreds of students at colleges and universities level, media, lawyers, civil society organizations, community members, marginalized groups of the society including minorities, disabled persons and transgender have been engaged throughout in this campaign across the Sindh province.

Listed below is a list of salient activities carried out during the Campaign:

1. LRF & PFDP, in collaboration with Department of Criminology at University of Karachi, organized a seminar on November 21, 2017 on 'Role and Importance of Community Policing to combating Gender Based Violence'. The event was organized to commemorate 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence that about to kick-off on 25 November. In the event several dignitaries of Police Department, Sindh Human Rights Commission, Social Welfare Department, Civil Society Organizations, faculty members and students from different departments of Karachi University attended the seminar.

2. In continuation of advocacy campaign titled 'My Police for Me' during 16 Days of Activism, LRF organized a theater performance on December 08, 2017 at Karachi Arts Council. The objective of the advocacy campaign was to bridge the gap between police and community and building the trust between the two as PFDP firmly believe community policing is the best policy and maintain that police must serve in the interest
3. On December 15, 2017, LRF organized a press conference along with the some other members of the forum at Karachi press club in order to report all activities conducted by the forum members of Sindh Province during their advocacy campaign titled 'My Police for Me' across Sindh province with the support of Police department, Sindh Human Rights Commission, Sindh Commission on the Status of Women, in connection of global advocacy campaign 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence-GBV.

4. On 23rd December 2017, LRF organized a PoliceCommunity Cricket Match at Moin Khan Cricket Academy Karachi. A friendly Police Community cricket match was jointly organized along with Aurat Foundation, SPO, Now Communities, SHEHRI and Criminology Department of Karachi University with the collaboration of Sindh Police, aiming to create soft image of police in general public.

Civil Society Support Programme

LRF, in its efforts towards strengthening Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in Pakistan, has provided legal assistance to 08 formal as well as informal CBOs/Social Groups, mostly to register under the available legal formworks and once in a dispute resolution case. Its objective of LRF’s Civil Society Support (CSS) Programme is to facilitate CSOs by creating and sharing information, providing a platform for discussion on achievements, successes, lessons learnt, narrating biographies of successful social development entrepreneurs and capacity building of human resource, etc. It also helps young civil society professionals, students and new entrants in the development sector. CSS Programme provides tailor made solutions to CSOs by focusing on their Governance Framework and Organizational Development.

CSS Programme establishes pool of information for the larger interest of stakeholders. The repository helps development sector professionals to get benefits in their research work and further enhancing their understanding on human development.
endeavors in Pakistan.

Programme Goal is “to strengthen social sector in which civil society organizations deliver their programmes in an enabling environment by having required technical and legal assistance”. The Programme approach is to:

1. Support organizational development of civil society organizations and build the capacity of young emerging community leaders.
2. Empower NGOs to further improve the effectiveness, impact and sustainability of their efforts through providing them technical and legal assistance.
3. Legally empower CSOs
4. Provided an enabling and conducive work environment for CSOs
5. On the whole, to build peace & harmony and help create an inclusive society.
6. Provide CSOs a platform for discussion on achievements, successes, lessons learnt, narrating biographies of successful social development entrepreneurs and capacity building of human resource in the shape of discussion forums “Sunehray Din” and “Baithak”.

Talk Series “Sunehray Din”

Legal Rights Forum (LRF) has introduced a talk series "Sunehray Din". Through this event, LRF promotes individuals to share their experiences in the context of human rights and development. It is a great opportunity to learn from the experiences of these individuals/institutions during this journey. In this regards, LRF has organized 2 “Sunehray Din” programmes during this year:

1) Title: A Struggle and Diversity all the way  
   Speaker: Mr. Tahir Hasnain Shah (Project Coordinator, UN-FAO)  
   Day: October 27, 2017 (Time:1530 to 1800 hrs)  
   Venue: Office of Legal Rights Forum in Karachi
2) Title: How to Improve Individual Participation in Institutional Development  
   Speaker: Mr. Amir Murtaza (Senior Consultant & Researcher)  
   Day: February 23, 2018 (Time:1600 to 1730 hrs)  
   Venue: Office of Legal Rights Forum in Karachi

Other Miscellaneous Activities

Internship Initiative

LRF offers internships to final-year law students, criminology department, gender studies from universities and law colleges from all over Pakistan and provides them an opportunity to acquire direct exposure to the operation of LRF and how does it assist and tackle the research and legal cases. Students learn practical skills such as applied research, pleading, writing, drafting and oral advocacy skills.

Internship is offered from 02 weeks to 24 weeks. The internees work at the LRF office in areas
such as legal research and legal report-writing on the rule of law, democratic governance. They may also assist the bro bono lawyers in the lower courts. Under this internship program every year LRF offers internship opportunity to final year law students and fresh law graduates at national level. It provides them an opportunity to equip with professional skills and lower court experiences. During 2017-18, LRF has inducted 10 interns.

**Fellowship Initiative**

LRF’s Fellowship Initiative is a capacity building program on advance level for youth and law graduates annually offered by the LRF. This fellowship is offered to only those youth and lawyers those complete their internship and interested in pursuing a legal career. The fellows are assigned with legal research and relevant writing. The assignments offer valuable professional and legal experience to new attorneys to expose them to court’s operation.

The Fellowship creates special window into the justice sector. LRF Fellowship creates a strong working relationship between experienced advocates and young lawyers around Pakistan.

Fellows receive regular mentorship, professional and personal skill development trainings. They are given opportunities to interact with District Judges, Session Judges, and Prosecutor and participate in court hearings. It also gives the opportunity to interact with top government officials, parole and probation officers. The potential benefits they derive from the fellowship serve as a precious asset in their professional life. During this year, LRF has given Fellowships to 09 law graduates.

**Paralegal Training**

LRF offered Paralegal Training workshop for workers, non-workers, women teacher, local politicians, etc. The Paralegal Trainings aim to provide basic legal information about human rights, women rights, child rights, person with disabilities, minorities and transgender rights etc. LRF trained 25 paralegals in Sindh during this year.

**Visit to Prison in Sindh**

LRF team visited all Youthful Offender Industrial Schools of Sindh and celebrated with them the Independence Day (August 14, 2018) and Eid Days with Juveniles.

LRF team also visited Special Prison for Women in Hyderabad and Karachi for celebration of Eid with women under trial prisoners.
Ms. Nuzhat Shirin Chairperson of Sindh Commission on the Status of Women (SCSW) along with its Members Mr. Nadeem Adv, Ms. Malika Khan, Ms. Shirin, Ms. Raheema Panhwar along with Technical experts on Women access to justice team Ms. Tabassum Rani Adv and Coordinator Hyderabad LRF with Malik Tahir Iqbal Executive Director LRF visited Special Prison for Women Hyderabad for monitoring purposes. SCSW prepared recommendations for Home and Prison Departments, Government of Sindh, on improvements needed for Women Prisoners in Hyderabad.

LRF delegate visit at Dar ul Aman in Hyderabad and Sukkur on the occasion of Eid Day 2018.

**LRF Visited by a Foreign Delegation**

Baroness Lorely Jane Burt, Member of UK House of Lords, along with Mr. Dominic, Ms. Becky and Mr. Salman of VSO Pakistan visited Legal Rights Forum (LRF) Office in Karachi on December 04, 2017. She appreciated LRF worked to contributing to ending Gender Based Violence and promoting Women Empowerment and Democratic Gender Responsive Policing in Pakistan. She also met Karachi Based members of civil society organizations and brainstorm on issues related to violence against women and commemorate 16 Days of Activism. LRF, being Secretariat holder of the Sindh Chapter of PFDP as well as UN Women's EVAW/G, highlighted its programme activities and actions planed for against Gender-Based Violence Campaign.

A Meeting was held at LRF office on November 15, 2017 with a Amplify Change / Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) delegation comprising Ms. Suzanne Walker, Technical Performance Manager at Amplify Change, UK; Dr. Narmeen Hamid, Technical Advisor, Amplify Change, UK based at Lahore; Ms. Rabecca J. Khattak, Project Manager, VSO-Pakistan; and Becky Higgins, Advocacy Advisor from VSO, Islamabad. The objective of the meeting was discuss role of Police and justice system and the way forward to improve the rule of law and access to justice situation in Pakistan.
SECTION 3

Networking and Linkages
Networking and Linkages with Government and Other Stakeholders

Mr. Tahir Iqbal, ED LRF, is an active Member of different Governments Committees such as:
1. Member of Provincial Monitoring Committee on the Child Marriages Restraint Act
2. Gender Committee of Sindh Human Rights Commission Government of Sindh
3. Law Committee of Sindh Commission on the Status of Women Government Sindh
4. ROBs committee on Corporal Punishment Act by Education Department
5. Police Reforms Committee in Sindh

LRF’s Self Networking Initiatives

LRF is founder members of the followings networks alliance:
1. Pakistan End Violence Against Children - National Alliance
2. Women Lawyers Network
3. Early Childhood Development Network Pakistan

Networking & Linkages with Development Partners

Networking and Linkages focus on good communications and partnerships with others to serve people with mutual interest. LRF believes in joint actions, mutual help and coordination in achieving common objectives through sharing of information, expertise and resources. To achieve the objective, organization has become active player in different networks. Linkages help the organization keep up with advances in pertinent fields, and give access to wide-ranging sources of up-to-date information within each area of the organization's work.

LRF is an active member of following advocacy Networks:
1. Pakistan Forum for Democratic Policing (PFDP)
2. Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAW/G)
3. Women Lawyers Network
4. Child Rights Movement
5. Women Rights to Land Network
6. Early Childhood Development Network Pakistan
7. Peace and Justice Network Pakistan
8. Alliance Against Child Marriages
Pakistan Forum on Democratic Policing

Pakistan Forum on Democratic Policing (PFDP) is a civil society's initiative for police reforms in Pakistan to meet the needs of the most vulnerable. LRF is an active Member of the Forum.

LRF was elected as a Secretariat of Pakistan Forum on Democratic Policing Chapter (PFDP) on August 29, 2017 for 2107-2018 for Sindh. PFDP, under the leadership of LRF, conducted various activities related to gender sanitization of Police and other justice institutions.

Ending Violence Against Women & Girls

LRF is also a Member of Ending Violence Against Women & Girls (EVAW/G) and has served as an Interim Co-Chair of the it Sindh Chapter for six months (from January to June 2018).

An election was held for its new Secretariat and LRF has won the election of EVAWG-Sindh Chapter Secretariat for one year 2018-19.

Child Rights Movement

In view of the severely exploitative and abusive situation of children in Pakistan a group of likeminded NGOs realized that one off project have not been able to solve the issues of violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation of children. Hence there is a need for joint and collective efforts on part of the civil society. This movement cannot be created without the active participation of all civil society actors coming together on a single platform. It is also important to note that countries where comparative progress has been made to address children's issues have done it through strong civil society advocacy and monitoring and by working collectively towards a common goal. Hence a Child Rights Movement has been formed in Pakistan with envision “All children enjoying their rights” and Mission “To create an enabling environment for children through collective advocacy on child rights issues”. LRF is part of this movement since 2013.

Early Childhood Development Network Pakistan

Early Child Development (ECD) is emerging as an area of focus and interest globally. Over the last decade, Pakistan has also seen increasing intervention in the area of early and formative education and development of children in the age group zero to eight years. Wide variation is found in the understanding and use of ECD terminology and it is also known as Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE), Early Childhood Education (ECE) or Early Childhood Education and Development (ECED). The ECD programs and approaches are now recognized as being the most advantageous and effective method that enhances the child's natural potential in all respects; mental faculties, physical development and social/behavioral competencies. A 2012 report from the Organization of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) concludes that Early Childhood education “improves children's cognitive abilities, helps to create a foundation for lifelong learning, makes learning outcomes more equitable, reduces poverty and improves social mobility from generation to generation.”

ECDNP is network of rights based organization. LRF has also part of ECD network of Pakistan, LRF Head office is also the secretariat of ECDNP since 2013 for the promotion of ECD in Pakistan.
**Alliance Against Child Marriages Sindh**

A Provincial group of like-minded NGOs, Aurat Foundation, Shirkat Gah, Legal Rights Foundation, Strengthening Participatory Organization, Aahung, Marie Stop Society, Rehnuma Family Planning Association Pakistan, AWARE, Visionary Foundation Pakistan, Dream Foundation and Women Development, found effective legislation in the provinces against Child Marriages.

They focus on:

- Reviewing existing laws and proposing revisions or a new comprehensive law;
- Contributing in making rules for new legislation;
- Lobbying with action
- Having provincial governments

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**Establishing “Ending Violence Against Children (EVAC)”-National Alliance**

In 2017 and 2018, LRF initiated a series of dialogue on child rights, with focus on children’s protection right. During a series of meetings, held in different parts of Sindh, Punjab, Balochistan with Non-Governmental Organizations, Bar Council/Bar Association, Press Club, Community Based Organizations, Social Workers, Human, Women and Child rights activists were invited and deliberations were made on different aspects of child rights, as enshrined in UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Later on provincial level consultations was organized in provincial headquarters. The major outcome of these consultative meetings was the formation of End Violence Against Children-National Alliance.

LRF held a consultative meeting on establishing “End Violence Against Children (EVAC)”-National Alliance on April 17, 2018 on 4:00pm at House 63 B, Street 36, E 11/3 Islamabad.

LRF has been engaged in the promotion and protection of the rights of the child since 2007. The child protection is also core of LRF vision and objective.

LRF team actively engaged to bring them every stakeholders of child and conduct consultative meetings in Sindh, Punjab and Balochistan and to establishing EVAC-National Alliance. After the completion of the consultative meetings, the EVAC national alliance will be founded and may be connect and part of Global Alliance End Violence Against Children.

Your participation in this endeavor will be a valuable contribution to a cause that we all believe in and wish to promote. The expected outcome of the consultation is the foundation of EVAC-National Alliance-Agenda 2030.

**Vision:** A society in which every child grows up free from violence.

**Goals:**

- Build Political will: Government commit to action and increased finance to end violence
against children.

Accelerate Action: Pakistan adopt national and provincial legislation, policies and programs to protect children

Strengthen Collaboration: serve the national and global alliances to facilitate knowledge and learning

The LRF currently holds the National Secretariat of the “End Violence Against Children-National Alliance” and Secretariat will rotate on yearly basis.
SECTION 4

Publication & Media
LRF has published a number of resource material to communicate its research and awareness with the policy makers as well as the public at large. Publications were usually printed on paper (like reports, newsletters and books), but were also made available online on LRF website and were delivered via the internet. Listed below are titles of some salient publications published during 2017-18:

1. JJSO SOPs for Police and Other Juvenile Justice Institutions in English
2. JJSO SOPs for Police and Other Juvenile Justice Institutions in Urdu
3. Analysis of Fair Trial and Due Process of Law for Under Trial Juveniles
4. Situation Analysis of Legal Aid to Under Trial Prisoners in Sindh
5. Legal Aid Roadmap for Under Trial Prisoners in Sindh
7. Training Manual on Semi Formal Dispute Resolution Mechanism in Sindh
8. Training Manual on Legal Empowerment of Women in Sindh
9. District Legal Aid Center (DLAC) Promotional Material
10. Newsletters
**MEDIA COVERAGE**

LRF, during 2017-18, has led a number of advocacy and awareness events and engaged media (print, electronic and social media) for proper media coverage and to amplify its message and communicate it with a larger audience.

Below are snapshots of reports of LRF activities appeared on media:
Legal Rights Forum (LRF) is a registered not-for-profit and non-governmental organization working since 2007, formally registered during 2011-12 under the Society Registration Act 1860 in Karachi. LRF envisions a democratic, just, peaceful and inclusive society. Its mission is to promote and protect democracy and democratic institutions for the rule of law, access to justice, peace & harmony, human rights and good governance. LRF is working to advance and strengthen the rule of law; facilitate revamping and reforms in the criminal justice system; and support sustainable development leading to socio-economic and legal empowerment of marginalized communities (women, youth, children, person with disabilities, minorities and transgender). LRF also works towards highlighting anomalies in the prevailing discriminatory legislative frameworks and strengthens joint actions.

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