

# LAS

**LEGAL AID SOCIETY**

**Connecting vulnerable and  
disempowered end-users  
of justice with effective and  
expedient services for the  
delivery of justice**



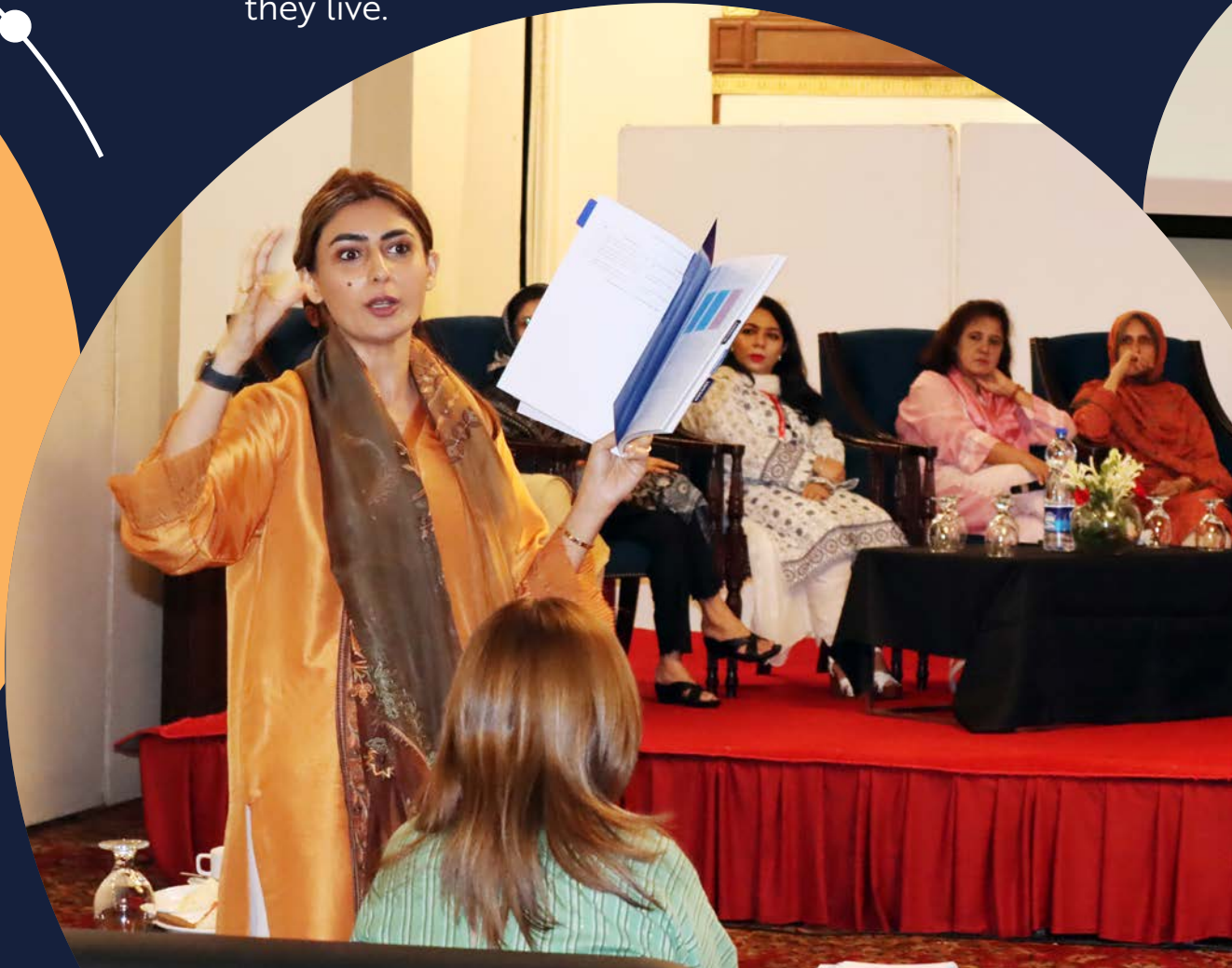
**Our Mission in Action**

2024-2025 edition

# Committed to Justice: Our origins

Pakistan faces significant challenges: a staggering backlog of cases in the courts, limited representation for marginalized communities, and systemic inequalities that leave millions without the legal protections they deserve. In the face of these realities, LAS is committed to bridging the justice gap for the most vulnerable. Through free legal aid, policy reform, and grassroots community engagement, we strive to empower individuals to understand and claim their rights, and to create a justice system that works for all.

At the Legal Aid Society (LAS), we stand on the frontlines of Pakistan's justice crisis, where millions face barriers to accessing legal support, and social issues like gender-based violence, inequality, and climate displacement continue to rise. Our mission is rooted in the belief that justice is not just a legal outcome—it is a fundamental right that must be accessible to everyone, no matter their socio-economic background, gender, or where they live.



# CEO's note



What sets LAS apart is our dual focus on immediate legal assistance and long-term systemic change. Our team of barefoot lawyers work tirelessly on the ground, providing life-changing support to those who have been denied justice. At the same time, our policy innovators work hand in hand with policymakers, the judiciary, and community leaders to drive reforms that tackle the root causes of injustice—whether that’s fighting for gender equality, protecting religious minorities, or ensuring climate-affected communities aren’t left behind.

Pakistan is at a critical crossroads, with social issues intersecting with the legal system in ways that demand urgent and innovative solutions. At LAS, we recognize the scale of the justice crisis, but we also see the immense potential for change. By fostering collaboration and staying true to our mission, we aim to build a society where justice isn’t a distant ideal, but a lived reality for everyone.

As we look to the future, our vision is clear: a Pakistan where the law serves the people, and where justice is not a privilege for the few, but a right for all. I am deeply grateful to our dedicated team, partners, and supporters who continue to push the boundaries of what is possible. Together, we are forging a more just, equitable, and inclusive society.

Thank you for your support and partnership in this vital work.

Pakistan Zindabad.

**Barrister Haya Emaan Zahid**  
Chief Executive Officer

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We invite you to explore how LAS is driving fairness, equity, and legal empowerment, making a lasting difference across Pakistan.

1. Empowering Through Justice: Our Mission and Values
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3. Champions of Change: The Faces and Forces Behind LAS



## SECTION ONE

gives you a glimpse into who we are, what we stand for, and why we exist. It introduces our mission, core focus areas, and the guiding principles that fuel our commitment to legal empowerment and a rights-based approach to justice.



## SECTION TWO

dives deep into the heart of our work, from access to justice and gender equality to child protection, freedom for religious minorities, and building climate resilience. It also reveals our approach to engaging communities and how we work collaboratively to strengthen justice systems nationwide.



## SECTION THREE

shines a light on the people behind the mission - our visionary founder, dedicated board members, supportive donors, and invaluable partners. Their passion and collaboration power LAS's mission to promote justice and empowerment.






## Empowering through Justice: Our Mission and Values

# About LAS

The Legal Aid Society (LAS) is a Not-For-Profit organization dedicated to ensuring accessible, effective, and expedient justice for marginalized and underprivileged communities across Pakistan. Founded in 2013 under the visionary leadership of Justice Nasir Aslam Zahid, a former Supreme Court Judge, LAS was born out of the belief that true social justice can only be achieved when people are empowered to understand and claim their legal rights.

A man in a dark suit and a blue face mask stands on the right side of the frame, holding a book and gesturing as if presenting. He is facing a group of people, including men and women, who are sitting on a colorful patterned mat on the ground. Behind the man is a large banner for the 'LEGAL AID & AWARENESS PROGRAM FOR RELIGIOUS MINORITY COMMUNITIES OF SINDH'. The banner features the LAS logo, a phone number '0800-70804', and text in Urdu. The background is a simple, light-colored wall with a blue triangular decorative element at the top. The overall scene suggests a community meeting or a legal awareness session in a rural or semi-urban setting.

What sets LAS apart is its holistic approach: **we combine on-the-ground legal support with systemic reform efforts.** From advocating for individuals facing injustice to reshaping the policies and institutions that govern them, we work at both the grassroots and policy levels. This bottom-up approach ensures that our impact is not only immediate but also long-lasting, transforming lives and the legal system alike.

By empowering communities and influencing national policy, LAS is driving meaningful change and making justice a reality for all.





### Vision:

To transform Pakistan's justice system to ensure inclusion, fairness and access for all.



### Mission:

To bridge the gap between people and the justice they deserve with effective and expedient services for the delivery of justice.

### Values:



Access



Empowerment



Creativity



Quality



Respect

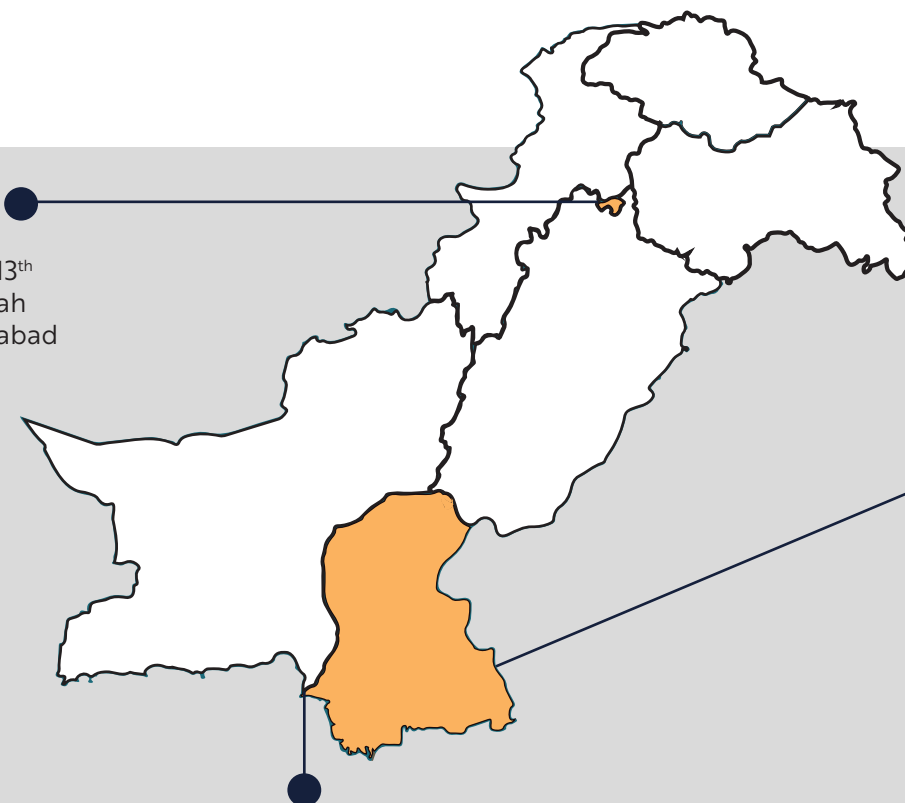


# Geographical Footprint

LAS has built a strong geographical presence across Pakistan, ensuring justice reaches the most marginalized communities. With our outreach extending across Sindh and Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) and operations in major cities in Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan, and Gilgit-Baltistan, LAS serves a diverse population in both urban and rural areas. By combining grassroots legal support with policy-level reform, LAS bridges the justice gap for Pakistan's 240 million citizens, driving both immediate and systemic change.

## ISLAMABAD OFFICE

State Life Building No.5, 13<sup>th</sup> Floor, China Chowk, Jinnah Avenue, Blue Area, Islamabad  
Phone 051-8732117

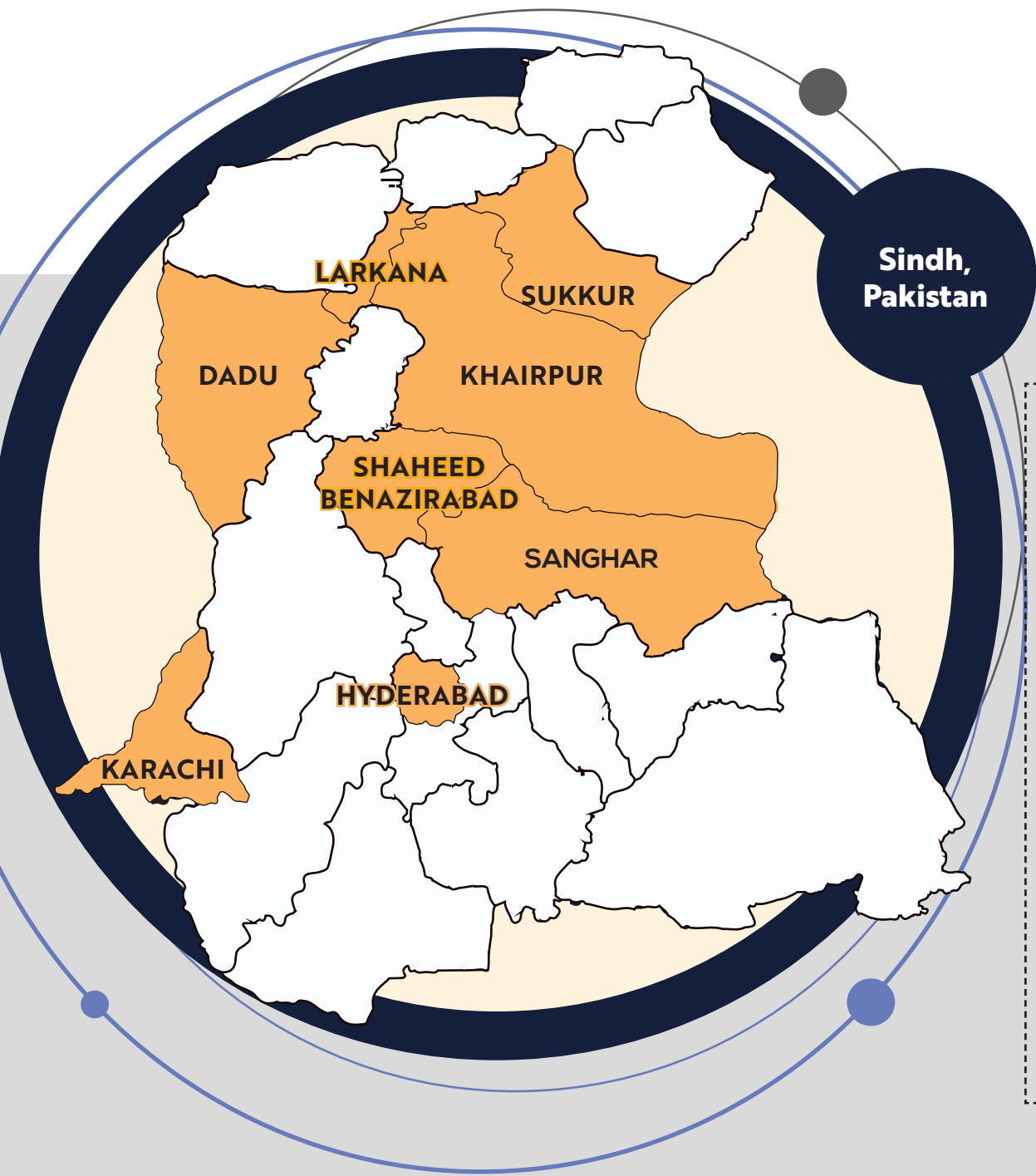


## HEAD/KARACHI OFFICE

Block C, 1st Floor, FTC Building, Shahrah-e-Faisal, Karachi  
**Phone** 021-35634112-5

## SLACC

Office 202, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, The Doctor's Plaza, Block 9, Clifton, Karachi  
**Toll free:** 0800-70806



**Sindh,  
Pakistan**

**SUKKUR ZONAL OFFICE**  
 Bungalow# A-32, Friends  
 Cooperative Housing Society,  
 Shikarpur Road, Sukkur  
 Phone: 071-5807215-6

**KHAIRPUR OFFICE**  
 Street No. 1, House# 4, 1<sup>st</sup>  
 Floor, Citizens Colony, Near  
 Garhi Pul Khairpur.  
 Phone: 0243-686022-23

**LARKANA OFFICE**  
 House# 170, Sachal Sarmast  
 Colony, Near Khuhra Sport  
 Complex Larkana.  
 Phone: 074-4756029.

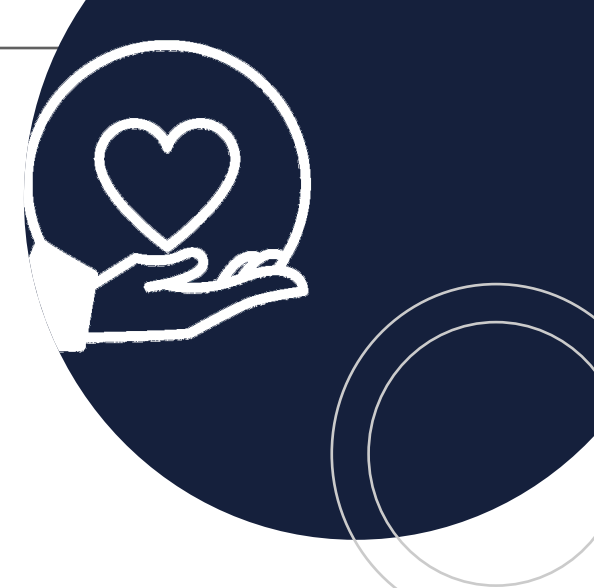
**HYDERABAD ZONAL OFFICE**  
 House# 153, Defence Officers  
 Housing Society, Main Thandi  
 Sarak, Hyderabad.  
 Phone: 022-2720042-3

**SANGHAR OFFICE**  
 House# 129/2, Housing Society  
 near Gokhlani Brothers CNG  
 Station at Sanghar.  
 Phone: 0235-541181-2

**SHAHEED BENAZIRABAD  
OFFICE**  
 House# 11, Khairshah colony  
 link Road Housing Society at  
 Nawabshah  
 Phone: 0244-381437,  
 0244381379

**DADU OFFICE**  
 Near Qalandari Hotel Moundar  
 Naka Moro Road Dadu  
 Phone: 0254-610050

# Core Focus Areas



We bring our mission to life by focusing on **Human Security** by protecting and promoting fundamental rights by ensuring access to justice, legal protection, and empowerment, particularly for marginalized populations, to foster dignity, safety, and equitable social development.



## ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Facilitating equitable legal assistance by bridging the gap between vulnerable individuals and legal systems.



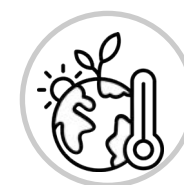
## GENDER AND CHILD SECURITY

Protecting and empowering women and children by tackling violence, discrimination, and inequality.



## FREEDOM OF RELIGIOUS BELIEFS

Safeguarding the rights of religious minorities through legal advocacy, strategic litigation, and policy reforms.



## CLIMATE RESILIENCE

Responding to climate emergencies and fostering grassroots awareness for mitigation and communal action.

# Programming Approach



LAS' guiding philosophy is inspired by Namati's

**Know the Law**

**Use the Law**

**Shape the Law**



## KNOW THE LAW

We empower vulnerable communities by equipping them with the essential legal knowledge they need to protect themselves and their loved ones. Through our programs, we reach out to people in low-income areas, marginalized religious minorities, survivors of gender-based violence, and persons with disabilities - ensuring that everyone, no matter their background, knows the legal protections available to them.



## USE THE LAW

Knowledge alone is not enough. We stand by those in need, offering hands-on guidance and support to help them navigate broken justice systems. From free legal assistance to filing cases in court to exploring alternative ways to resolve disputes, we are committed to ensuring that everyone has the tools they need to assert their rights and seek justice.



## SHAPE THE LAW

Real change happens when we work together. We engage directly with key players in the justice system, fostering partnerships that span across themes and sectors. Through ongoing training, workshops, and dialogues, we help strengthen the skills of judicial officers, government officials and legal professionals, ensuring that the system works better for everyone.

# Spearheading Change: Aligning with the UN 2030 Agenda



**SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT  
GOALS**



The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), adopted by the UN in 2015, aim to ensure peace and prosperity for all by 2030. We are committed to advancing these goals, with a special focus on Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions (SDG 16), Gender Equality (SDG 5), and Reducing Inequalities (SDG 10). Our programs are closely aligned with SDG 16, while our work on gender, minority rights, and climate action supports SDGs 5 and 10. Through partnerships and innovation, we also contribute to SDG 17, fostering sustainable change alongside like-minded organizations.





# Impacting Lives: Our Focus and Achievements



# ACCESS TO JUSTICE

## The Justice System in Pakistan



With **2.4 million** pending cases in Pakistan's courts, the backlog is overwhelming—and it's set to triple by 2030 if nothing changes.



Pakistan has only 3,640 judges for a population of 240 million—which means there's just **1 judge for every 69,000 people.**



**Over 80%** of cases from the last decade could have been solved faster through alternative dispute resolution, avoiding the courtroom altogether.



# Access to Justice at LAS

We are committed to making legal support fair, accessible and equitable for all. Our Access to Justice Portfolio empowers people with knowledge of their rights, provides direct legal aid, and pushes for the adoption of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) to ease the burden on courts. By reducing barriers, we aim to build a more inclusive legal system, in line with SDGs 10 and 16.

Our work has four key areas of focus:

## Legal Aid for all

We provide critical legal representation to underserved communities, helping them assert their rights and gain access to justice.



## Impactful Litigation

Our expert litigators take on precedent-setting cases, fighting against discriminatory practices and defending the rights of marginalized communities.



## Know Your Rights

Through outreach and awareness campaigns, we empower individuals to navigate the legal system confidently by equipping them with the knowledge of their rights



## ADR

We champion Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) methods like mediation and community-based solutions to offer quicker, more accessible paths to justice outside traditional courts.



## Pathways to Action - Access to Justice



### Equipping Communities with Legal Literacy

Through our Community Legal Aid and Awareness Clinics, we bring crucial legal knowledge to the doorsteps of those who need it most. We've reached community members, focusing on women, religious minorities, and the economically disadvantaged, ensuring they understand their rights and how to seek help when they need it.

#### IMPACT

**Over 53,000 community members reached** through Community Legal Aid and Awareness Clinics.



### Creation of Community Paralegals

LAS has a network of paralegals: men, women, and transgender individuals - who serve as trusted legal guides in their neighborhoods. These paralegals help to resolve local disputes, advocate for marginalized groups, and become powerful voices for justice. Their training also helps build leadership skills, enabling them to become advocates for change.

#### IMPACT

**700+ paralegals trained** and mobilized



### Leveraging Digital Media

We know that legal problems can be overwhelming, but at LAS, we're here to help. Our legal aid services focus on protecting economic, social, and cultural rights by providing expert legal advice, representation in court, and support with administrative processes. We offer targeted support ensuring that legal assistance is accessible to all.

#### IMPACT

Legal aid services have reached over **56 million people** through SMS and social media.



## Specialized Legal Advice

Our Sindh Legal Aid Advisory Call Center (SLACC) is a lifeline for those seeking answers. Supported by a dedicated team of over 30 high-court enrolled lawyers, we provide timely, accurate, and practical legal advice on a wide range of issues—from criminal law to property disputes—helping thousands find clarity and support when it matters most.

### IMPACT

A team of over **30 high-court enrolled lawyers** provides specialized legal advice.



## Institutionalizing ADR

We believe in finding peaceful solutions to conflicts. Our Musaliha International Center for Arbitration & Dispute Resolution (MICADR) is at the forefront of promoting Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR), helping communities settle disputes without going to court. We are committed to easing court congestion and providing faster resolutions to those in need.

### IMPACT

**Over 2,900 cases resolved** through ADR, with more than **450 justice actors trained** in mediation.



## Shaping the Future of Justice

We're building the future of justice by engaging with law schools to integrate ADR into their curriculum. By training faculty and students, we're preparing the next generation of lawyers to embrace mediation and ADR, ensuring faster, more inclusive justice for all. Five major law schools have already adopted our sessions, bringing ADR education into the heart of legal training.

### IMPACT

**5 major law schools** have integrated ADR into their curriculum.



# GENDER AND CHILD SECURITY

## The Reality of Women and Children in Pakistan

### Locked out of Land

**Only 3%** of Pakistani women successfully access or acquire their inherited land, highlighting the severe constraints on women's property rights.

### Justice on Hold

On average, it takes **16.8 months** for a rape or sodomy case to reach a conclusion from the date of the incident to the final verdict.

### Rights Erased

In **90%** of Nikahnamas (marriage contracts), key clauses related to women's rights in marriage are either left blank or deliberately struck

# Gender and Child Security at LAS

At LAS, we are deeply committed to addressing the injustices faced by women and children. Our Gender and Child Security Portfolio focuses on combating sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), protecting children, empowering women economically, and securing their rights within marriage. We challenge deeply ingrained patriarchal norms and strive for gender equality, advancing Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 3 and 5.

Our work centers around three key areas:

## Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV)



We know that delays and inefficiencies in the justice system often leave SGBV survivors waiting for justice that never comes. That's why we've developed our Think-Trial Approach—a comprehensive strategy that identifies and addresses the gaps and obstacles at every stage of the legal process, from the moment an incident occurs to the trial's conclusion. By targeting these bottlenecks, we are working to increase conviction rates and ensure justice is served swiftly and fairly.

Prevention and response to SGBV with a specific focus on sexual violence, domestic violence, and forced conversions through marriage.

## Economic Empowerment of Women & Children



Advancing women's rights to acquire, access, and control property while advocating for recognition of marital property rights. Simultaneously, providing basic literacy and vocational training to juveniles to reduce recidivism and foster rehabilitation.

## Protection of Women & Girls in the Family



Educates women about their rights under all personal laws, with a special focus on progressive and non-patriarchal interpretations of Muslim Family Laws.

# Pathways to Action - Gender and Child Security



## Facing the challenges of SGBV together

Legal literacy helps women recognize and challenge Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), equipping them with knowledge of their rights and redressal mechanisms. This empowerment fosters stronger community networks that prevent and address SGBV.

### IMPACT

**25% increase** in SGBV cases being reported and pursued in our target districts shows how empowerment leads to action.



## Empowering Girls and Women for a brighter future

Through our workshops on literacy, financial independence, and leadership, LAS helps girls and women not only respond to violence but build economic resilience and take control of their futures.

### IMPACT

**Over 3,000 girls and women trained** on critical life skills that they need to thrive.



## Bridging educational gaps for Juveniles

Through LAS's basic literacy program at Central Jail Karachi, we provide vital education to juveniles, many of whom have never attended school or madrasa. By equipping them with essential literacy skills, we want to offer a pathway to a better future.

### IMPACT

**Over 1,900 juveniles armed with skills** aimed at reducing recidivism and empowering them for reintegration into society.



## Building capacity to combat SGBV

LAS provides gender sensitization and legal training for law enforcement, judicial officers, and government institutions, ensuring a more compassionate and effective response to SGBV.

### IMPACT

**Over 2,000 criminal justice officials trained** to improve their handling of SGBV cases, along with sensitizing 150+ Nikkah Khuwans (Marriage Registrars).



### Driving Policy and Legal Reform

LAS plays a key role in legislative reforms addressing domestic violence, child marriage, dowry, and women’s property rights. Our efforts have contributed to key legislative reforms that strengthen protections for survivors of sexual violence across Pakistan.

#### IMPACT

We’ve supported the drafting of the **Sindh Medico-Legal Act (2023), the Anti-Rape Act (2021), and draft laws** to secure women’s rights to marital property.



### Research and Evidence-based Advocacy

Our evidence-based approach fuels all our programs and advocacy efforts. From child marriage to women’s property rights, our research informs real change and strengthens the legal protections available to women and children.

#### IMPACT

**12 research studies** and **3 policy papers published**, leading to meaningful policy reforms.



### Support to Government efforts to tackle SGBV

As a key facilitator for the Government’s Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Coordination Committees, LAS plays a vital role in technical working groups focused on SGBV data and Sexual Offences Investigation Units.

#### IMPACT

We developed the **Sexual Violence Response Framework** for Sindh and Islamabad, and **launched 2 Anti-Rape Crisis Cells** in Islamabad and Karachi.



### Fighting for justice through Strategic Litigation

Through strategic litigation in sexual abuse and rape cases, we collaborate closely with public prosecutors to ensure survivor-centered legal processes that deliver justice.

#### IMPACT

**40% increase in successful SGBV prosecutions**, which shows that our litigation efforts are making a real difference.



# FREEDOM OF RELIGIOUS BELIEF

## Insights into Freedom of Religious Beliefs: Research Highlights

**Religious Minorities left out**

**Only 39%** of District Peace Committees have members from religious minority communities, revealing the lack of representation for those who need a voice the most.

**Rights in the Shadows**

Our research on forced marriage and conversions shows that **just 23%** of respondents from religious minority communities know even 60% of their basic rights - highlighting a deep gap in awareness and protection.



# Freedom of Religious Belief at LAS

At LAS we stand with religious minority communities (RMCs) to protect their rights, strengthen their legal knowledge, and promote inclusion. Through focused legal interventions, strategic litigation, and community-building, we work to shield RMCs from forced conversions, discrimination, and violence. Through our Freedom of Religious Belief Portfolio, we're committed to creating a Pakistan where religious minorities can live their faith freely and seek justice without fear, aligning with Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 10 and 16.

LAS is working hard to ensure freedom of religion and belief (FORB) is woven into every aspect of our work. Our efforts focus on five key areas:

## Exposing Bias and Discrimination

We shine a light on the prejudice faced by religious minorities in society, courts, and administration, using evidence-based research to drive change.



## Legal Process Enhancement

We work to enhance legal processes and build the capacity of justice actors to ensure religious minorities receive fair trials and equitable access to justice.



## Reforming Personal Laws

We're pushing for updates to personal laws for religious minorities to ensure they have the same legal protections as everyone else.



## Prevention of discrimination & violence

At the district level, we're building mechanisms to promote tolerance social cohesion, and prevent violence against religious minority communities.



## Fighting Forced Conversion

We raise awareness about the issue of forced conversions, especially through marriage, and advocate for stronger responses from the government, justice systems, and civil society to protect vulnerable women and girls.

# Pathways to Action - Freedom of Religious Belief



## Safeguarding the Rights of Religious Minority Communities (RMCs):

LAS has empowered RMCs through legal aid and awareness sessions, which equip them with the knowledge to identify and combat discrimination, forced conversions, and religious persecution, enabling them to better navigate the legal system and seek justice.

### IMPACT

**Over 24,615 individuals empowered** through legal aid and awareness sessions.



## Capacity Building in Justice and Administrative Systems

sector professionals, including Nikah Registrars, to address unconscious biases and improve their competencies. These specialized programs enhance how cases involving RMCs are managed, leading to more effective outcomes.

### IMPACT

Our training programs are now **part of the Sindh Judicial Academy's curriculum.**



## Research and Data Driven Interventions

LAS prioritizes primary data generation to fill critical gaps on RMC issues, ensuring interventions are evidence-based. Research efforts include legal needs assessments, studies on forced conversions, property rights, and unconscious biases in the justice system.

### IMPACT

**7 comprehensive research reports** published to date.



## Fostering Peace and Inclusion

In partnership with the Government of Sindh, LAS has played a pivotal role in establishing 10 District Peace Committees (DPCs) with both male and female RMC representation. These committees foster open dialogue and help prevent violence through capacity-building in communication, negotiation, and conflict resolution, promoting peace and tolerance at the community level.

**IMPACT**

**10 active District Peace Committees** bringing communities together.



## Legal Aid and Support for RMCs

In the past three years, LAS has resolved cases for RMC individuals, providing legal advice, document preparation, and mediation services. By assisting individuals in accessing reserved quotas and legal entitlements, we ensure RMCs can claim their rights and protect themselves from discrimination.

**IMPACT**

**504 cases resolved**, ensuring access to justice for RMCs.



## Strategic Litigation and Law Reform

LAS uses strategic litigation to fight discriminatory practices and set legal precedents that protect RMCs, especially in personal law matters. We also advocate for critical reforms in marriage and inheritance laws, including draft legislation addressing forced marriages, child marriages, and inheritance rights for RMCs.

**IMPACT**

**10+ legal precedents** in the pipeline, reshaping the legal landscape for RMCs.



# CLIMATE RESILIENCE, SUSTAINABILITY, AND SECURITY

## Pakistan is the 5<sup>th</sup> most vulnerable country to Climate Change

### Devastating Monsoon Impact

In the summer of 2022, Pakistan faced severe monsoon rains, nearly three times the 30-year national average, submerging one-third of the country and **affecting over 33 million** people. With more than 80 districts declared 'calamity hit,' including 23 in Sindh, countless families were left displaced and struggling to survive.

### Loss of Identity, Loss of Support

As the floods ravaged communities, **nearly 89%** of those affected lost crucial identification documents, cutting them off from essential support systems like the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) and other social security schemes. Without these documents, families were left without a lifeline in their most desperate hour.

# Climate Resilience, Sustainability, and Security at LAS

At the Legal Aid Society (LAS), we're committed to supporting communities most affected by climate disasters, focusing on legal empowerment and ensuring access to essential social protections. For those without proper documentation, the aftermath of a disaster can be devastating. That's why we step in - offering legal assistance and connecting people with the state-sponsored relief mechanisms they urgently need. Our work aligns with Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 1 and 13, driving resilience, recovery, and social protection where it's needed most.

We focus on three key areas:

## Reclaiming Identity



When floods and other disasters strip people of their vital documents, their access to aid disappears, too. We help individuals recover critical ID cards, birth certificates, and more, so they can rebuild their lives and access the relief they deserve.

## Unlocking Social Protections



We ensure that those impacted by climate disasters know their rights and have the support to access social security programs. By guiding them through the system, we make sure they receive the financial aid and resources needed for recovery.



## Emergency Relief & Financial Aid

Partnering with local stakeholders, we deliver emergency relief—like ration drives and financial aid—while also focusing on long-term recovery. Our goal is to help communities not just survive climate disasters but emerge stronger and more prepared for future challenges.

# Pathways to Action - Climate Resilience



## Reclaiming Identity for Flood-Affected Populations

In the wake of devastating floods, LAS carried out an in-depth study across five districts in Sindh to understand the urgent civil documentation needs of affected communities. Many families lost their essential papers - like ID cards and birth certificates - leaving them without access to vital services.

### IMPACT

**1,204 beneficiaries assisted.**



## Bringing Legal Help to the Heart of Communities

Through mobile legal clinics and grassroots awareness sessions, LAS has reached flood-affected individuals directly, helping them restore access to legal documents lost in the disaster. From CNICs to birth certificates, we're reconnecting people with their rights and the services they depend on.

### IMPACT

**300 awareness sessions** were held, reaching over **9,700 community members.**



## Legal Awareness

To make the recovery process easier, LAS developed four easy-to-understand Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials that guide flood survivors through the steps to regain their documents. These materials have empowered thousands to navigate the legal system and reclaim their identity.

### IMPACT

**4 different IEC materials** were distributed, benefiting thousands of beneficiaries



## Hands-on Legal Support

As part of our recovery efforts, LAS provided personalized consultation sessions and financial assistance to those in need. This hands-on support has enabled flood-affected individuals to regain their legal identity and access vital services.

### IMPACT

**Over 1,900 consultation sessions** were conducted, **900+ individuals served**, and **500+** provided with financial aid.



## Building Long-Term Resilience Together

LAS' work on civil documentation recovery is making a real impact during the early recovery phase. Together, we're strengthening response systems and creating lasting solutions to help communities bounce back stronger.

### IMPACT

**Strengthened response mechanisms** for civil documentation recovery in high-risk areas



# Testimonials

## From those whom we serve

“

**Maria Ali**

I never thought I would find the courage to leave my abusive marriage. The Legal Aid Society provided me with the legal support I desperately needed. Their team guided me through every step of the process, and I'm finally free. Thank you for giving me my life back!

“

**Ahmad Sarmad**

As a member of a religious minority, I faced challenges I never imagined. The Legal Aid Society not only helped me understand my rights but also fought tirelessly for my case. I'm incredibly grateful for their dedication and support. They made me feel heard and protected.

“

**Sakina Akhtar**

I felt lost and scared after experiencing domestic violence. The Legal Aid Society not only assisted me with my legal needs but also offered emotional support during a difficult time. Their compassion and professionalism made all the difference. Thank you for standing by me!

“

**Fatima Khan**

The Legal Aid Society was a beacon of hope for me and my family. They helped me navigate the complexities of my case regarding religious rights. Their commitment to justice and equality is truly inspiring. I am forever grateful for their assistance!



“

**Priya Kumari**



Going through a divorce was one of the most challenging times in my life. The Legal Aid Society stepped in when I felt hopeless. They provided invaluable legal advice and helped me secure my matrimonial property. I can't thank them enough for their kindness and expertise

“

**Maria Paul**



When my family faced a property dispute with our neighbor. I was hopeless and alone. The Legal Aid Society facilitated a productive conversation, and we reached a resolution that satisfied everyone, saving us time, money, and heartache. I'm grateful for their help in restoring peace in our community.

“

**Sarah M.**



I was overwhelmed by a custody battle that seemed never-ending. Thanks to the Legal Aid Society, I received expert guidance through mediation. They helped me reach a fair agreement with my ex-husband, allowing me to focus on my children without the stress of a prolonged court battle. I can't thank them enough for their support!

“

**David R.**



When my family faced a property dispute with our neighbor, I felt hopeless and alone. The Legal Aid Society connected me with a skilled mediator who facilitated a productive conversation. We reached a resolution that satisfied everyone, saving us time, money, and heartache. I'm grateful for their help in restoring peace in our community.

# Our performance Snapshot



cases diverted and resolved through Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR), and Litigation, ensuring individuals find justice and have a fair right to be heard.

**Over  
5,000  
legal aid cases**

**56+  
million  
lives touched**



From SMS and social media to rickshaw campaigns, our outreach efforts have connected with millions, raising awareness and empowering communities across Pakistan



Our Sindh Legal Aid Call Center (SLACC) has provided critical guidance and support to hundreds of thousands of people seeking clarity and assistance on legal matters.

**450,000+  
legal queries  
answered**

**40  
research and  
policy papers  
published**



We've produced groundbreaking research and advocacy that is shaping laws and policies to better protect vulnerable populations and promote justice.



We've reached tens of thousands in person, building legal literacy and empowering communities to stand up for their rights.

**130,599  
people engaged  
in community  
awareness  
sessions**

**700+  
trained  
paralegals**



By building a network of paralegals, we're creating sustainable, community-led legal support that extends far beyond our own efforts.



# Champions of Change: The Faces and Forces behind LAS

Mr. Asadullah Jamil



Ms. Rabiya Javeri Agha



Justice Arif  
Hussain Khilji



Dr. Habiba  
Hasan



Our board of  
**Directors**

Dr. Samia K.  
Babar



Justice  
Muhammad  
Ather Saeed



Mr. Adnan Javed



Barrister Furkan Ali



# Our Founder & Chairperson

Justice Nasir Aslam Zahid is a trailblazer in Pakistan's legal landscape, whose legacy spans decades of service, reform, and advocacy for the marginalized. Earning his B.A. Honors in Law from Cambridge University in 1956 and being called to the Bar at Middle Temple in London the same year, Justice Zahid's pursuit of justice began with academic excellence. He later completed his M.A. at Cambridge in 1960, before returning to Pakistan to practice law for over two decades.

In 1980, Justice Zahid was appointed as a judge of the Sindh High Court, marking the start of a judicial career defined by bold leadership and groundbreaking decisions. As Chief Justice of the Sindh High Court (1992-1994), he championed public interest litigation and authored landmark judgments that fortified fundamental freedoms. His commitment to justice led to his elevation to the Supreme Court of Pakistan in 1996, where he continued to leave a profound impact on Pakistan's legal system.

A visionary beyond the bench, Justice Zahid was instrumental in leading the Commission of Inquiry for Women (1996-1997), a pivotal initiative addressing women's rights. His forward-thinking approach to judicial modernization saw him spearhead the Supreme Court's computerization project, and he led the Federal Judicial Academy from 1999 to 2000. His refusal to compromise on constitutional principles was cemented when he chose not to take an oath under the Provisional Constitutional Order (PCO) in 2000, marking his departure from the judiciary.

Justice Zahid's commitment to social justice extended well beyond his judicial career. After retiring, he founded the Hamdard School of Law in Karachi, creating a new pathway for legal education in Pakistan. As the Chairperson of the Committee for the Welfare of Prisoners (2004-2024), Justice Zahid transformed it into a pioneering legal aid institution, providing free representation to thousands of underprivileged prisoners. His two decades of leadership in this role built a lasting system of support for those often forgotten by society.

A champion of Alternative Dispute Resolution, Gender Justice, and Public Administrative Law, Justice Zahid's influence extends not just within Pakistan but internationally, where he contributed to constitutional reform committees in various countries. His vision of a more equitable and accessible justice system continues to inspire legal reforms and empower communities across the country.

**Justice Nasir  
Aslam Zahid:**  
A Visionary Leader in  
Justice Reforms



# Some of our Publications

## Gender and Child Security

- ✓ Identifying Gaps & Challenges in Women's Acquisition and Access to Social Security Mechanisms
  - ✓ Accessing the implementation of DNA Standard Operating Procedures by Sindh Police Department
  - ✓ Nikahnama & Protection of Women's Rights and Privileges in a Muslim Marriage
  - ✓ Challenges for Successful Outcome: Sexual and Gender Based Violence Cases
  - ✓ Gap Analysis of Investigation & Prosecution of Rape & Sodomy Cases in Islamabad Capital Territory
  - ✓ State as the Absent Parent: Child Marriage in Sindh, Pakistan
  - ✓ Rights? What Rights? An analysis of emerging Human Rights from constitutional Law in Pakistan
- Our powerhouse team is deeply committed to research and evidence-based work, consistently gathering valuable insights through thorough, dedicated efforts. We invite you to explore our publications, which showcase the depth and impact of our work. Take a moment to sift through them to truly appreciate the strides we are making in advancing justice and empowerment.
- ✓ Delay in Trial: Empirical Evidence from the Magistrates' Courts in Karachi
  - ✓ Covid-19 and Sexual and Gender Based Violence Reporting: A Study of Sindh Legal Advisory Call Center data
  - ✓ Children in Conflict with Law – A socioeconomic mapping of detained Children
  - ✓ Effectiveness of Public-Private Policing: A Review of the CPLC in Sindh
  - ✓ Understanding Sexual Harassment at the Pakistani Workplace
  - ✓ Understanding Domestic Violence within the Legal framework of Pakistan
  - ✓ Deconstructing Conjugal Rights in Pakistan
  - ✓ The Justice Gap in Sindh: Evidence from the Legal Aid Call Centre

- ✓ The Victim & the Accused: An Analysis of the Legal Needs in the Criminal Justice System in Sindh
- ✓ Rapid Assessment on Current Status of Essential Services for Survivors & Victims of Gender-Based Violence & Sexual Offenders (Sindh)

## Access to Justice

- ✓ Assessment of Gaps and Challenges in operationization of District Peace Committee (DPCs) in Sindh
- ✓ Establishing ADR Mechanisms in Pakistan
- ✓ Alternative Dispute Resolution in Sindh: A quantitative evaluation of case diversion potential & community demand
- ✓ Assessment of the Legal System for Religious Minorities in Pakistan: Exploring Adjudication challenges through a case-file analysis
- ✓ Policy Paper on establishing ADR Mechanisms in Gilgit Baltistan (GB)
- ✓ Alternative Dispute Resolution Mechanisms: Access to Community & Public Administrative Bodies
- ✓ Policy Paper on Use of Alternative Dispute Resolution in Sindh

- ✓ Delays in the Delivery of Justice in Civil Cases
- ✓ The State of Legal Education in Pakistan, and the Case for Reform in Legal Education
- ✓ Prioritizing needs: An Evidence-Based study for Religious Minorities in Sukkur, Ghotki & Larkana.

## Climate Resilience, Sustainability, and Security

- ✓ Mapping Study: Safeguarding and Enhancing Access to Civil documentation for Flood-affected populations in Sindh
- ✓ Evolving Needs of Flood Affectees: An evidence driven response framework
- ✓ Flood relief efforts by the Legal Aid Society



**View our website to view/download the publications:**

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# Partnerships and Collaborations



Sindh Police  
Government of Sindh



Sindh Human Rights Commission  
Government of Sindh



ISLAMABAD HIGH COURT  
ISLAMABAD



NATIONAL COMMISSION  
ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN



NATIONAL COMMISSION  
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS



WOMEN DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT  
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