



**Legal Awareness
Watch Pakistan**

Juvenile Justice **NEWSLETTER**

(JAN-DEC 2023)

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An initiative by Legal Awareness Watch Pakistan (LAW)

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NEWS FROM RECENT PAST:

- It is reported in local Urdu newspaper that two minor (s) got arrested on suspicion of performing sexual activity with twelve years old girl in Lahore.¹ We at **LAW** believe that they would be given their due rights those embodied in the **Juvenile Justice System Act 2018 (JJSA)** i.e., their parents and/or relatives/care taker (s) as well as the concerned probation officer (to protect their best interest and wellbeing) informed about their apprehend by the concerned **Station Head Police Officer (S.H.O)**.
- **On 17th December (2022)**, it was reported in the local papers that the **Inspectorate General of Punjab Prisons (I.G.)** had issued direction to prison police officials to ascertain the psychological (mental) health of prisoners at the time of their admission to prison (s). The decision was taken to make sure that prisoners would be given medical facilities as well as due medical treatment in prison (s).² We at **LAW** believe that children less than 18-year of age particularly those who would charge with blasphemy and such like (suspected) violation of law be given this facility as well.
- It is reported in the local English newspapers on **31st December 2022** **178** Afghan children were detained in prisons with their **129** Afghan mothers in the province of Sindh. It was transpired to local press by the Information Minister of the Sindh government in addition he said that those **129** Afghan mothers were being tried for violation of Foreigner Act.³
- To bring innovation and effectiveness in its advocacy **LAW** across had recorded a video clip (**advocacy message**) sharing rights of the children (those embodied in JJSA 2018) who come in conflict with the law, and it was broadcast on **two** channels from **23rd December to 31st December 2022** (twelve times in a day) approx... reaching to **0.1 million** population of Lahore. The video clip is also available on Youtube.com.

RESTORATION IS A RIGHT OF PRISONERS:

We at **LAW** believe that rehabilitation is a scientific and systemic process of assessment, intervention with the view of bringing the offenders back into normal life with trivial potential for future breach of social harmony/violation of penal law. Hence, rehabilitation is acknowledged as “a right of every wrong doer” in recent times. This right

¹ <https://e.jang.com.pk/detail/324486>

² <https://e.jang.com.pk/detail/319650>

³ <https://tribune.com.pk/story/2393552/129-afghan-women-178-kids-in-jails>

is aimed to transform of wrong doers to bring their lives back to normal leaving their past away from their present lives. Considering prevailing criminal justice system particularly for children that has been in practice since 2018 under the JJSA 2018 until the time of this edition no restorative/rehabilitation schemes have been introduced to transform or rehabilitate the juvenile offenders to ensure that they would return to normal lives after their release from the prison. For instance, “killing a man is not justice, but merely a type of revenge”, said L. Ron Hubbard while discussing the implication and practice of the death penalty. Thus, it is safely submitted that locking any person to severe life imprisonment without the prospect of parole is also a sheer violation of human rights and it is as same as the barbaric death penalty. In recent times in third world like Pakistan there is a need of introducing courses/restorative scheme (s) for children in conflict with the law that can encourage self-respect, overcoming addiction, learning skills for life.



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Note: *This newsletter has not been professionally edited.*