



**Legal Awareness
Watch Pakistan**

Juvenile Justice **NEWSLETTER**

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An initiative by Legal Awareness Watch Pakistan (LAW)

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NEWS FROM RECENT PAST:

- **LAW** held a forum on the implementation of the Juvenile Justice System Act 2018 (*hereinafter JJSA 2018*) on **25th May 2023** in Khushab. Participants from the offices of **Police Training College Farooqabad, Police Training College, Inspectorate General of Police Punjab, Punjab Child Protection and Welfare Bureau, and Punjab Public Prosecutor General** officially attended the forum and took an active part in it. In nutshell, it was concluded with a recommendation that the government bodies and decision-making corners had to take measures and active actions to implement it in lines with the international standards, conventions, and treaties to protect the best interest of the children in conflict with the law. In addition, due to ineffective implementation children in conflict with the law often subjected to cruel and barbaric penal sanctions, and denied their due rights embodied in JJSA 2018.



Highlights from the Forum

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- **LAHORE:** It is reported on social media that three children of one a girl (**14**) has been arrested on charges of murder of their father. The police of **Raiwind City** arrested them and put to prison. Despite being less than eight years of age nor the police neither the court involved the concerned probation officer in the investigation procedure. **JJSA 2018** provided that the concerned probation officer be informed by the police where any children have been arrested within 24 hours of their arrest. **LAW** is preparing for taking up their cases on humanitarian grounds as mother of these children have also been in prison.
- **International CURE (Citizens United for Rehabilitation of Errants)** under the leadership of **Mr. Charles Sullivan** had its 9th Conference on Human Rights & Criminal Justice Reform in **Nairobi, Kenya, May 1-5**. There were **95 participants** representing **28 countries**. During the conference director **LAW** was among the panelists on the issue of juvenile justice and adult sentencing in Pakistan said that juveniles should be separated from adults and prison officials should collaborate as allies for more humane conditions. Each country should produce manuals which instruct staff on the needs of the incarcerated, especially concerning women. Finally, restorative justice and diversion should become primary tools in a country's criminal justice system.



*Director **LAW** among the panelists from the U.S., India, Ethiopia, and Australia.*

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PERSPECTIVE FROM ABROAD:

➤ **The Power of Restorative Justice in Youth Populations: A Crucial Practice for Countries like Pakistan**

Restorative justice is a powerful approach to addressing crime and conflict that emphasizes healing, reconciliation, and active participation of all parties involved. While its effectiveness has been recognized globally, its application in youth populations has proven to be particularly transformative. This article explores the significance of restorative justice in countries like Pakistan, highlighting its potential to foster positive change and reduce recidivism rates among young offenders. Restorative justice focuses on repairing harm caused by criminal behavior through dialogue, empathy, and mutual understanding. It emphasizes the needs of victims, offenders, and the community, aiming to restore relationships and prevent further harm. The process typically involves facilitated discussions, victim-offender dialogues, and community involvement. In countries like Pakistan, where youth crime rates are a pressing concern, implementing restorative justice practices becomes crucial. Traditional punitive approaches often fail to address the underlying causes of juvenile delinquency and contribute to the cycle of reoffending. Restorative justice offers an alternative that promotes personal growth, accountability, and rehabilitation, setting the stage for positive development and reintegration.

Restorative justice offers a transformative approach to addressing youth crime in countries like Pakistan. By prioritizing healing, accountability, and community involvement, it has the potential to break the cycle of reoffending, empower young individuals, and strengthen community bonds. Implementing restorative justice practices should be a key focus for policymakers, justice systems, and communities to create a brighter future for the youth and promote a more just and compassionate society.

**Steven Matthew Clark PhD Candidate
Restorative Justice Practitioner
Incarcerated Experience in the United States.**

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Thanking You,



(Sarmad Ali)

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Lahore Bar Association.

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Dated: 2nd June 2023.

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