

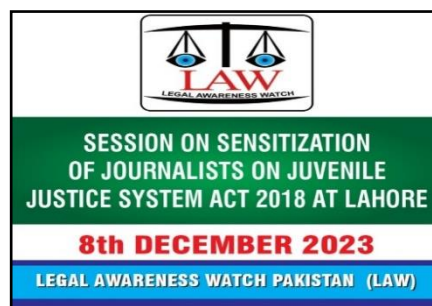
ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT- 2023
LEGAL AWARENESS WATCH-LAW ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM ACT -2018

INTERNATIONAL ADVOCACY

➔ **LAW** coordinated efforts and initiatives on various levels against death penalty not only within Pakistan but globally as well. **LAW** contributed suggestions and proposals across the country against death penalty in Pakistan in general and against children in particular death United **Nations Human Rights Council Universal Periodic Review** was put to its **52nd** Session in February 2023 at the Palais des Nations, in Geneva, Switzerland.

AWARENESS- RAISING SESSIONS AND TRAINING WORKSHOPS FOR THE CAPACITY BUILDING OF STAKEHOLDERS WITHIN PAKISTAN:

Apart from international advocacy on the use of severe punishment upon children and women across Pakistan **LAW** implemented **two** awareness-raising sessions with various stakeholders, **two** training workshops for the capacity building of stakeholders, a press conference to shed light on the non-fulfillment of juvenile justice Act 2018, and a special session with the journalists in **2023 on UNICEF's** guidelines and principles on reporting cases involving children. *Note: (Lists of news articles and press releases acknowledging LAW's advocacy in 2023 is available at www.legalawarenesswatch.com)*



AWARENESS RAISING VIDEO CLIP

In addition, **LAW** had produced a video clip that reached **8853000** eyeballs across the district Lahore *via Global & New Star Cable Operators* for the awareness of public in Urdu language summarizing salient features of the Act 2018. The video clip was aired twelve times a day for thirty days across Lahore district. **Note:** (Available at www.legalawarenesswatch.com)

VIDEO DOCUMENTARY:

Similarly, **LAW** had produced an **eight-minute** documentary for the expeditious conveyance of a message through digital means to the concerned and decision-making bodies and authorities across Pakistan to seek their attention on the non-fulfillment of justice Act 2018 despite the lapsed of five years of the juvenile. **Note:** (*We may solicit its copy in case if will you need it*)

THE JUVENILE JUSTICE NEWSLETTER:

Pertinent to mention the **Juvenile Justice Newsletter** (*An initiative by Legal Awareness Watch Pakistan*) remained a timely newsletter in Pakistan in the year 2023 for the perusal and capacity building of stakeholders. The newsletter of **LAW** had reached at least **600 to 1000** stakeholders across Pakistan and abroad electronically and in printed form. **Next** year (2024) we've projected to enhance its recipients at least to **2000** individuals and/or departments and NGOs abroad and within Pakistan. **Note:** (*Compilation of 2023 Newsletters available at www.legalawarenesswatch.com*)

WHAT HAVE WE ACHIEVED:

In the year **2023** **LAW** in collaboration with its partner organization in Sindh implemented numerous awareness-raising sessions and training workshops apart from video messages and documentaries based upon those activities, it has been submitted that to an extent the implementation of juvenile justice Act 2018 got noticed across Punjab and Sindh as same as other special laws on the issues of transgender, destitute and neglected children, human smuggling, etc. We know the effective implementation of the Act 2018 yet to be done in its letters and spirits in accordance with the provisions of international convention about children that Pakistan had ratified and signed in **1990**. However, we at **LAW** believe change is gradual but possible.

Similarly, the stakeholders and participants who came to our sessions and workshops made a bid to carry out their duties and roles while dealing with cases of children in conflict with the law. For example, an inspector from **Gujranwala**, after receiving training from **LAW** telephoned to ask to double check how to produce a child in the court who was apprehended on suspicion of theft under section 379 of Pakistan Penal Code 1860 in accordance with the law. This sort of trivial contact with the stakeholders and participants from our past events remained regular throughout the year 2023.

Akin to this at another instance, the journalists with those we had two sessions in Punjab were interested in knowing detail on reporting the cases of children in conflict with the law with reference to the **UNICEF** guidelines and juvenile justice system Act of 2018. Their interest in the implementation of juvenile justice Act 2018 was praiseworthy and in some cases, they had reported in their press stories that juvenile justice committees to be made functional and active across Pakistan for the resolution of cases of minor and major penal violations through restorative justice i.e., *diversion* from penal sanctions under section 9 of the Act of 2018.

In addition, the Director General of Punjab Probation and Parole Service Punjab and Punjab Chief Commissioner on the Rights of Child had invited **Legal Awareness Watch** to make them aware of the latest developments on the implementation of Act 2018. Those departments had expressed interest in the topic of juvenile justice and requested **LAW** to assist and facilitate them in sending recommendations and suggestions to the government/legislature at the federal and provincial levels for their consideration on the implementation of Act 2018.



Director LAW with Chief Commissioner Punjab on the Rights of Children

In a bid to seek effective implementation of Act of 2018 **LAW** suggested to them based on its field operations and awareness raising advocacy across Punjab and Sindh that juvenile justice committees to be made functional and number of members in those committees to be increased at least to ten with reference to section 206 of juvenile justice and prevention of delinquency Act 1974 of the U.S. Similarly, we had also suggested to them to seek attention of the high ups in the corners of force to notify observation homes, and rehabilitation centers for the restoration of children in conflict with the law in accordance with the Act of 2018.

Furthermore, **LAW** clarified that *Borstal* institutions in Faisalabad and Bahawalpur in Punjab were notified under the Borstal Institute Act of 1925 meaning that they could not be considered as rehabilitation centers as warranted under section 2 of the Act of 2018. Similarly, the child barracks across prisons of Punjab that were notified in February 2021 by the Inspectorate General of Punjab Prisons fail to meet the requirements of rehabilitation centers as well.

LAW believe that rehabilitation centers/institutions must not be on the premises of the existing prisons i.e., 106 across Pakistan having them controlled and administrated under the Pakistan Prison Rules of 1978. Internationally even in our neighboring India rehabilitation centers have different meaning making them separate from the ordinary prisons. Therefore, **LAW** suggested to them that centers for children in conflict with the law must be under the control and administration of the Social Welfare Department in accordance with the international standards.

On top of these stipulations **LAW** suggested to the departments and decision makers with full force to notify Rules of Business under section 23 of the Act 2018 to make things functional and effective for the resolution of cases of children in conflict with the law. It is crucial to mention here that rules of business under section of the Act mentioned above got notified in the province of KPK in the year 2023 and became the first province.

Likewise, **LAW** had also expressed its dismay on unavailability of funds as warranted under section 3 of the Act of 2018 for the protection as well as legal aid of children facing penal sanctions and allegations despite five years of its introduction. **Note** that despite the lapse of five years of its promulgation no particular funds have been allocated for the children in conflict with the law neither at the federal nor provincial levels to date.

What's Next?

LAW is aimed at implementing more training workshops and awareness-raising sessions for the capacity building of the advocates, prosecutors, probation officers and all those said to have roles in the Act of 2018 next year (2024). For seeking effective and meaningful implementation of the Act of 2018 we've planned to take the provincial judicial academies that supply legal trainings to the judicial officers/judges on boards ensuring that newly inducted judges and already presiding officers across the provinces would receive regular trainings under the juvenile justice Act 2018.

Note: This annual activity report has been drafted and prepared for awareness purposes of stakeholders and those associated with LAW.

APPENDIX

	Venue:	No. of participants	Professions:	Breakdown:
1	Taxila on 21 st March 2023.	42	Advocates, Probation Officer, Prosecutors and Policemen.	35 advocates, 01 probation officer, 01 prosecutor, and 05 police officers.
2	Khushab on 25 th May 2023.	35	Advocates, Probation Officer, Journalists, Social Activities, and Prosecutors.	16 advocates, 05 journalists, 04 prosecutors, and 03 police officer, and 06 child rights activists.
3	Multan (Two-day) training workshop (11 th July to 12 th July 2023).	34	Advocates, Probation Officer, Prosecutors, Child Rights Activists and Policemen.	25 advocates, 01 probation officer, 04 police officers, 03 prosecutors, 02 child rights activists.
4	Two-day workshop in Gujranwala (1 st August to 2 nd August 2023).	35	Same as above.	15 advocates, 05 journalists, 05 child rights activists, 05 child court staffers, 01 prosecutor and 04 police officers.
5	Produced an awareness clip on the salient feature of Juvenile Justice Act 2018 in April 2023.	N/A.	Broadcasted in district Lahore. It is available online on the website of LAW at www.legalaw	It reached to 8853000 eyeballs in 30 days.

			www.legalawarenesswatch.com	
6	The Juvenile Justice Newsletter.	600 to 1000.	Journalists, Advocates, Prosecutors, Foreign Mission to Pakistan, Judges/Magistrate, etc.	250 Advocates, 50 Probation Officer, 50 Prosecutors, 50 Civil Society, 100 Policemen, 30 Law Graduate, 15 Judges, Foreign Missions to Pakistan (France, Switzerland, U.K., U.S., Portugal, Austria, India, Belgium, Germany, etc.)
7	Press Briefing in Sheikhpura.	15 press personnel.	N/A.	The press briefing was held to highlight the non-fulfillment of Juvenile Justice Act 2018 across Pakistan. It received consideration in 15 mainstream Urdu and English newspapers of Pakistan. List of media coverage is available at www.legalawarenesswatch.com

Thanking you,



(Sarmad Ali)

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