

2024



# LEGAL AWARENESS WATCH PAKISTAN

**JUVENILE JUSTICE NEWSLETTER**



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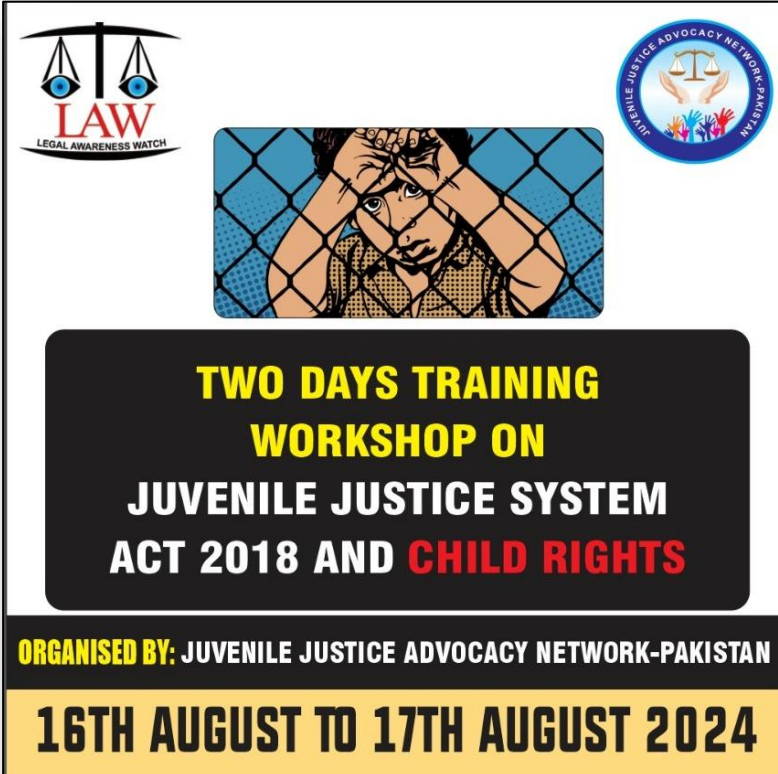
*An initiative by Legal Awareness Watch Pakistan (LAW)*

**SEPTEMBER 2024 EDITION**

## **NEWS FROM RECENT PAST:**

- To keep its advocacy effective and meaningful across Pakistan particularly in Punjab which is the largest province on the **implementation of Juvenile Justice Act 2018 LAW** had implemented (second) **two days training workshops** in this year for the capacity building of stakeholders in **Mandi Bahaduddin** city.

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**LAW**  
LEGAL AWARENESS WATCH

JUVENILE JUSTICE ADVOCACY NETWORK-PAKISTAN

**TWO DAYS TRAINING  
WORKSHOP ON  
JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM  
ACT 2018 AND CHILD RIGHTS**

**ORGANISED BY: JUVENILE JUSTICE ADVOCACY NETWORK-PAKISTAN**

**16TH AUGUST TO 17TH AUGUST 2024**



## **RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE TRAINING WORKSHOP:**

- We had received following recommendations from the participants and sharing some of those with the recipients of this newsletter to allow them to understand exactly what has been going on in Pakistan with respect of **Juvenile Justice Act 2018**.
  - i.** The criminal responsibility age to be increased from **10 years to 15 years** to allow more and more children in conflict with the law to remain safe and rehabilitate through diversion **i.e.**, non-penal sanctions under the Juvenile Justice Act 2018.
  - ii.** Conduct public awareness campaigns and training workshops to educate stakeholders about the rights and needs of juvenile offenders as well as the importance of human treatment within the justice system.
  - iii.** Integrate restorative justice principles into the juvenile justice system, emphasizing accountability, repair of harm and involvement of victims, families and communities in the resolution of conflicts.
  - iv.** Adopt policies and practices that recognize the unique vulnerabilities, developmental needs, and rights of juvenile offenders, ensuring that they are treated in a manner consistent with their age and maturity level.
  - v.** Public campaigns and meetings to design courtrooms and procedures to be child-friendly with measures such as, separate waiting areas, shorter court sessions, and the presence of support persons/probation officer and families of the juvenile offender.
  - vi.** Promote birth registration to establish a reliable record of age of children and use it during the investigation process—where children get apprehended in penal violations.

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## **A LEAF FROM THE HISTORY:**

**In** the year 2020 during the zenith of Covid-19 in India **four** men were executed in Tihar jail of Delhi. They were found guilty of rape and murder a girl in Delhi on a moving bus.

At glance, **five** individuals were apprehended by the Delhi police. Among them was a child who was conductor of the bus. Despite huge public outcry across India the court strict to the law and conducted trial of those individuals in accordance with the law, however, that child named **Muhammad Afroz** whose name was changed to **Raju** in the media due to his age was tried under the Juvenile Justice Act of India on **31<sup>st</sup> August 2013**, he was convicted of rape and murder under the **Juvenile Justice Act 2015** and given the maximum sentence of three years' imprisonment in a reform facility, inclusive of the eight months he spent in remand during the trial. However, in Pakistan many children those who had been identified in **2020-2021** in Punjab and Sindh kept in notorious and violent prisons despite being less than eighteen years of age at the time of commission of penal violation under the penal law of Pakistan.

We at **LAW** believe all those who've been in prisons should receive fair trial under the Constitution of Pakistan, 1973 read along with UN Human Rights Declaration as well as given free legal assistance under the Juvenile Justice Act 2018. Children in conflict with the law (under-trial and convicted) remain in prison without legal assistance at the expense of the State. The juvenile justice of Pakistan yet not as mature as effective comparing to India its neighboring country instead it is flawed.

**Sarmad Ali**

**END**

**Thanking you,**



**(Sarmad Ali)**

Advocate High Court

LL.M. (U.K.)

**Director LAW**

**National Convenor of Juvenile Justice Advocacy Network Pakistan  
(JJANP)**

**Dated: 1<sup>st</sup> September 2024.**

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