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THE HIGH COURT OF SINDH, KARACHI

No. GAZ/DLEC/AJP(06)

Dated: 11-01-2023

All communication should be addressed to the REGISTRAR HIGH COURT OF SINDH KARACHI and not to any Official by name

From:

The Registrar, High Court of Sindh Karachi..

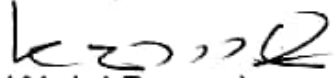
To,

**All the Learned District & Sessions Judges,
In Sindh.**

Subject: **REQUEST FOR ESTABLISHING THE CASE
MANAGEMENT AND COORDINATION MECHANISM
FOR VICTIMS OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE AND
CHILD DOMESTIC LABOR.**

I am directed to enclose herewith a copy of letter No. LRF No. 80/2022 dated: 30th December, 2022, with its attachment, on the subject noted above received from Chief Executive Officers, Legal Rights Forum, which is self-explanatory, with the request to send Child Domestic Labor and Child Sexual Abuse Case(s) in Sindh to Legal Rights Forum (LRF) for legal assistance to victims, if any and has / have no Lawyers, as requested.

Encl: As above.


(Abdul Razzaq)
Registrar

A copy is forwarded to the Chief Executive Officers, Legal Rights Forum for information.

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LRF No. 80 /2022 Dated: December 30th, 2022

Mr. Abdul Razzaq
Registrar
Sindh High Court, Karachi

Subject: Request for establishing the Case Management and Coordination Mechanism for Victims of Child Sexual Abuse and Child Domestic Labor

Honorable Mr. Abdul Razzaq sb,

Legal Rights Forum (LRF) is a not-for-profit organization registered under the Societies Registration Act, of 1860. Founded in 2007, LRF envisions a democratic, just, peaceful, educated and inclusive society wherein all citizens especially children, youth, women, persons with disabilities, minorities, and transgender may live with equal protection of law, self-respect, and dignity.

Child Domestic Labor (CDL) is one of the most pervasive forms of child labor in Sindh. Thousands of children working as domestic workers are deprived of their basic rights and are often subjected to abuse and violence.

LRF has recently launched a Project on **Provision of Legal and Social Services to Victims of Child Domestic Labor in Sindh and Engaging Parliamentarians in Legislation on Child Domestic Labor**. Please find enclosed the Project Brief for your kind perusal.

In this regard, LRF plans to establish a Case Management and Coordination Mechanism for Victims of Child Sexual Abuse and Child Domestic Labor in Sindh in coordination with Sindh Prisons & Corrections Service (SPCS), Sindh Police and the Sindh High Court.

As you know, the LRF has also been supporting in capacity building and strengthen DLEC in the Sindh. (Letter attached). We request your good honor to direct the District and Session Judges or relevant Judge if any case found on CDL and has no lawyer, if they send us then LRF will provide the pro-bono Legal assistance to the victims of Child Sexual Abuse and Child Domestic Labor in the Sindh.

Thanks for understanding and we look forward to your kind response.

Yours sincerely,



Malik Tahir Iqbal
Chief Executive Officer
0300-6846828

Project Title

Provision of Legal and Social Services to Victims of Child Domestic Labor and Engaging Parliamentarians for Legislation on Child Domestic Labor in Sindh

Context and Introduction

Legal Rights Forum (LRF) is a registered non-profit and non-governmental organization working since 2007, formally registered under the Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860 in Karachi, KAR NO.0076 of 2011-12 on January 13, 2012. LRF is a registered in Federal Board of Revenue No. 4299748 as a Non-Profit Organization under 2 (36) including 159 (1)/153 for reducing rate of withholding on Supplies/Services and Contract. LRF envisions a democratic, just, peaceful, educated and inclusive society wherein all citizens may live with equal protection of law, access to justice, self-respect and dignity.

LRF works on both demand and supply side to achieve its goal and mission. LRF have been working with diversified communities including poor communities, women, children, juveniles, persons with disabilities, minorities, transgender and senior citizens, etc.

Child domestic labor is one of the most pervasive forms of child labour in Pakistan. Thousands of children working as domestic workers are deprived their basic rights and often subjected to abuse and violence. The use of children especially girls as domestic servant is certainly one of the most pervasive forms of child labor. Usually domestic girl workers are kept handicapped in the society. Therefore, they face more challenges and difficulties as compared to male domestic workers. They are easily victimized of sexually, physical, and philological harassment at domestic work places. Due to illiteracy and endemic poverty, they become the victim of emotional, physical and sexual violence by the members of the house where they work.

Child labor is widespread in Sindh Province where reportedly 6.4 million children are out of school and the vast majority is engaged in child labor. According to a recent news article, four million children are working as laborers in Sindh. While protecting children against sexual abuse is already a challenge, these kids employed, often after parents are given meagre sums of money, do not stand a chance. Sexual abuse coupled with the harsh life these kids see, often leads to depression and other health disorders.

In Sindh, child domestic laborers are not covered under the law and there is need to amend Law by engaging Parliamentarians in Sindh and provide Legal and Social Services to victims of Child Domestic Labor (CDL).

GOAL

GOAL: The overall goal is to strengthen the prevention, protection and response to children victims of sexual abuse and domestic labor

OBJECTIVES

1. Strengthen laws and policies that outlaw child domestic labor and contribute to the protection and rights of child domestic laborers.
2. Sensitize community on child domestic labor and protection/rights of child domestic laborers.
3. Extend legal aid and psychological, social and legal services to child victims of CDL in Sindh.

Project Description

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LRF has initiated a project on Child Domestic Labor (CDL) in Sindh that involves the provision of legal and social services to victims of Child Domestic Labor and engage Parliamentarians in legislation on CDL in Sindh.

The project will be implemented in Karachi and Hyderabad. LRF believes to achieve the results of any program and project by closely working with partners, state actors and the communities. As a strategy, LRF will work on both demand and supply side to address the issue of CDL and the existing lack of legislative support for CDL in Sindh. At the one hand, LRF will create demand as well as pressure from civil society against CDL through raising awareness, mobilizations, consultations and establishment of a CSO's network on CDL. On the other hand, lobbying and advocacy will help build a consensus on the need to revise legal frameworks and gain commitment from policy makers towards improving legislation regarding CDL.

A consultative process will be initiated for advocacy and legislative efforts. On priority basis, parliamentarians, state actors and civil society at large, including child rights activists and CSOs, will be engaged in consultations to highlight and diagnose the CDL problem within and beyond the law, such as situation in courts of law, social norms/barriers, reporting in media, difficulties with the Labor Department, etc. Further strategies of advocacy and legislative efforts will be prioritized in the light of findings of consultations.

A capacity building workshop for selected parliamentarians will be used to sensitize, educate and raise awareness besides influencing MPAs and persuade them that CDL needs to be regulated. Training session will be designed to focus on demonstrated examples and concrete suggestions on how legislation and government policies are a best tool to restrict CDL and ensure sustainability.

Through live telecasts of audio/video messages in Urdu and Sindhi languages on Radio, TV and social media, the grassroots community, parents and children will be sensitized about dark side of CDL and the rights of children. Talk or interview by a decision maker or government official on CDL, or by a local celebrity in Sindh will be posted on social media. Newsletters and IEC material will be produced in English, Urdu and Sindhi language to keep stakeholders (parliamentarians, state-actors and the civil society at large) aware and sensitized.

Through consultative process, a draft amendment in Law/s will be prepared and submitted to relevant government department/s for further action.

30 victims of CDL will be given Legal Aid and counselling/psychosocial support services (20 in Karachi and 10 in Hyderabad). Cases will be registered through direct interaction with communities, helpline of Sindh Child Protection Authority and cases reported in media.

Sustainability and Way Forward

The project is designed to continue and sustain its services and impact beyond the project. In this regard, following measures will be ensured for continuation and sustainability:

1. Legislation on CDL .
2. Awareness/sensitization among stakeholders on Child Protection and Child Domestic Labor
3. Continuity of legal and social services: service providers will continue their support
4. Continuity of legal and social services by LRF: through its Dastageer Legal Aid Centers (DLACs), LRF will continue legal aid and legal assistance; psychosocial support; and referral services to victims of CDL and their families
5. Follow-up by Sindh Child Protection Authority who will continue to monitor implementation of laws and policies on CDL.
6. Follow-up by LRF: LRF will follow-up the legislative reforms on CDL and sensitization among the communities through joint efforts and individual interventions in its program areas.



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