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CENTRE FOR LEGAL AID ASSISTANCE AND SETTLEMENT (CLAAS)

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Centre for Legal Aid, Assistance & Settlement (CLAAS) - Pakistan

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About CLAAS

Centre for Legal Aid Assistance and Settlement (CLAAS) was established in 1992 to address the human rights issues faced by the religious minorities, women and children. We primarily help the victims of Blasphemy, prisoners of conscience, forced conversion, sexual assault, illegal confinement, forced marriage, police torture, domestic violence and other oppression by aiding them with free legal aid, shelter and rehabilitative support.

CLAAS has provided an articulated platform to marginalized communities where they can come without any fear to fight injustice and discrimination. CLAAS team of fearless Lawyers and human rights defenders risk their lives to provide protection and safety to those who are unable to defend themselves.

VISION: CLAAS vision is a civil society based on tolerance, equity and justice

MISSION: To motivate and empower the most vulnerable and marginalized to stand up for their rights and fight injustice and discrimination through the legal process

AIM: To make legal aid and safe shelter support accessible to poor and vulnerable

GOAL: The ultimate goal of CLAAS is to work for the protection and promotion of human rights and the elimination of all forms of discrimination and help build a just and peaceful society

VALUES: The core values of CLAAS are derived from the basic human rights charter which comprises of

1. Equality
2. Love and Respect for all
3. Empathy
4. Perseverance
5. Integrity

Objective: The main objective of CLAAS is to provide free legal aid, assistance, settlement, protection, and rehabilitation to victims in need
To reduce gender inequality by providing skill-based training to female survivors
To empower communities through awareness-raising programs
To promote religious tolerance and peace building through interfaith dialogues

CLAAS emphasize the following guarantees ensured by the Constitution of Pakistan as the right to:

Dignity: The dignity of the human person shall be inviolable. The state shall ensure the elimination of all forms of exploitation.

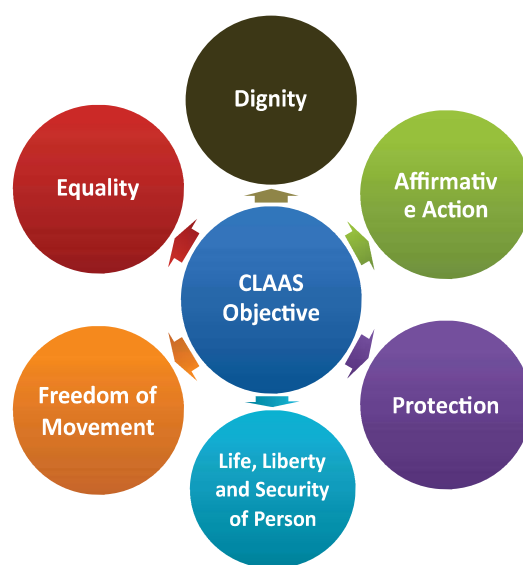
Equality: All citizens are equal before the law and are entitled to the equal protection of the law. There shall be no discrimination on the basis of sex alone.

Protection: To enjoy the protection of law and to be treated in accordance with law is the inalienable right of every citizen, wherever he may be, and of every other person for the time being within Pakistan. No action detrimental to the life, liberty, body, reputation or property of any person shall be taken except in accordance with law. The state shall protect the marriage, the family, the mother and the child.

Affirmative Action: Nothing shall prevent the state from making any special provision for the protection of women and children. Steps shall be taken for full participation of women in all spheres of national life.

Life, Liberty and Security of Person: No person shall be deprived of life or liberty saves in accordance with law

Freedom of Movement: Every citizen has the right to move freely throughout Pakistan subject to any reasonable restriction imposed by law in the public interest.





Reflection from NATIONAL DIRECTOR CLAAS

The Year 2020 started with a looming threat of COVID-19 virus which nobody thought would change the way we live and maneuver. Despite these challenges CLAAS continued its activities and was able to achieve all its set targets. This was made possible because of CLAAS dynamic TEAM who despite high risks never hesitated to reach to people in need. During the course of their work one of our field staff and 2 senior lawyers contracted coronavirus.

In 2020 CLAAS celebrated big success in three major cases. The first success was in lynching and second in vandalism case of Youhannabad. The 40 alleged in lynching case were imprisoned for over five years, they were acquitted by the Anti-Terrorism Court due to insufficient evidence against them and the other 42 in vandalism case were also acquitted due to no evidence against them. The other honour for CLAAS was the acquittal of Sawan Masih (Joseph Colony victim) who was on death row; awarded to him by the Sessions Court Lahore in 2014. He was acquitted

after eight years of imprisonment by the Lahore High Court double bench presided by Justice Shahbaz Ali Rizvi and Asjad Javed Ghural.

Forced conversion and sexual assault of minor Christian and Hindu girls has been alarmingly increasing. It was after a long time that Christian community was united and protested vigorously to fight for justice for the thirteen year old Christian girl Arzoo Raja who was married to a forty-four year old Azhar Ali. On Sindh High Court's instructions the abductor was arrested and the minor girl was recovered. Since the minor has embraced Islam, the court has become biased and instead of handing the custody of the minor to her parents, she was sent to a government run shelter home. The parents are still fighting for her custody.

After the beheading of a French history teacher, the French president's remarks against Islamophobia agitated the Muslims around the world. In Pakistan the radical Islamic religious political party Tehreek-e-Labaik Pakistan (TLP) staged a sit in protest blocking the entrance into Islamabad demanding expulsion of French Ambassador from Pakistan and boycott of all French products on the government level. TLP leader Khadim Hussain Rizvi in an open address to his followers has commended the Muslims living in Holland and France to stab and kill anyone who favours the making and publishing of blasphemous caricatures.

Thank You
M.A Joseph Francis MBE
National Director CLAAS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

LEGAL AID

Centre for Legal Aid, Assistance and Settlement (CLAAS) was established with the vision of providing free legal aid to religious minorities especially Christians who were charged under Blasphemy. We also provide legal assistance in cases of abduction, illegal detention, sexual assault, forced marriages, domestic violence and forced conversion and all sorts of cases of persecution. CLAAS has a panel of four lawyers on its payroll, who pursue cases in lower courts and High courts in Lahore and surrounding cities. Local lawyers are hired for cases outside Punjab.



FACT FINDINGS

CLAAS is known for its reliable and impartial reporting of incidents of human rights violations. Besides accuracy and comprehensiveness on time approach is a critical factor in validity of any fact finding mission. To acquire actual facts we conduct our own fact findings of incidents of human rights violations; after which a report of the incident is published. This helps us in assessing the situation and the need of the affected individual or family. In some cases legal assistance is not required in such cases we still maintain documentation of these incidents and use these reports as case studies. Through these publications and reports we highlight persecution of religious minorities in Pakistan. These reports and publications are shared with like-minded local and international human rights organizations, individuals, diplomatic missions and church organizations. This helps us in bringing these important issues and cases to the notice of national and international community and to motivate and mobilize public opinion on the situation of human rights violations in Pakistan.



JAIL VISITS

In the past CLAAS was engaged in quarterly jail visits covering Punjab. Through these visits we were able to collect data on number of female, children and male non-Muslims confined in different jails and the nature of their cases. We were able to identify their needs including legal aid. Since 1999 the government has restricted the access of non-governmental organizations to prisons. We have written to the Interior Ministry as well as the Home Ministry to allow us to meet at least with the Christian inmates but our request has been denied due to security reasons. CLAAS will continue to work to get permission to visit prisons on a monthly basis in our quest to provide legal aid to those who do not have means to hire a lawyer. CLAAS intends to start a **Prison Ministry**. Through this Ministry we will arrange a pastor to visit the inmates and besides giving them spiritual counseling he will hold Sunday, Christmas and Easter Mass for the inmates. Due to heightened security provincial and federal authorities denied any access to any detainees under blasphemy and Youhanabad case.



REHABILITATION CENTRE (APNA GHAR)

In cases of sexual abuse, forced conversion, forced marriage, abduction and domestic violence female survivors not only bear physical and emotional pain but are victimized again by the shame and stigma forced on them in a culture that places blame on the victim and ignores those who brutally attacked them. In many cases these survivors are rejected and cast out by their own parents, husbands and communities. In some cases these women survivors face threat to their lives from the perpetrators; who through local police and community leaders pressurize these survivors to drop legal and criminal charges against them. These survivors are given safe boarding

and lodging in CLAAS shelter home called “**Apna Ghar**”. CLAAS ensures that women and children staying in “Apna Ghar” are provided treatment not only for their physical wounds but also for their emotional healing. Awareness raising sessions and workshops are arranged to facilitate these survivors about their legal rights. These workshops are conducted with the help of qualified human rights activists and lawyers. Women staying in “**Apna Ghar**” are also provided hands-on skilled based trainings to empower them to become financially independent. CLAAS also encourages them to get formal education by providing them a female teacher who comes to shelter to give them tuition. Any survivor who wishes to continue their studies in school or college, observing all security measures CLAAS makes arrangements for their admission in regular schools and colleges.



SAFE HOUSE

Religious intolerance in Pakistan makes it extremely dangerous for individuals who find spiritual fulfillment in Christianity and want to practice their Christian faith. Furthermore, free will marriages and Inter faith marriages are not acceptable in Pakistan. Women who dare to marry without the consent of the family and especially outside her religion are viewed as someone who has brought shame and disgrace to the family. The homicide of the victim is viewed as a way to restore the reputation and honour of the family. The perpetrators of honor killings are often legally pardoned due to loopholes in the present law. Since its operation in 1992 CLAAS has been approached by individuals, couples and families who converted to Christianity and Muslim women married to a Christian male were now facing serious threats from their respective families and local radical groups. At that time CLAAS was unable to provide them shelter but extended legal help in criminal cases filed against them. In 2004, Barnabas Funds UK enabled CLAAS to purchase a piece of land to build a Safe House for new converts. It has proved to be a safe haven for couples and families who face life threats.



ADVOCACY AND LOBBYING

A very important activity of CLAAS is to do advocacy and lobbying on important issues like misuse of the blasphemy law, forced conversion of Christian and Hindu minor girls, forced disappearances and repeal of all discriminatory laws against non-Muslim citizens and women. To pursue this we arrange press conferences and public meetings to mobilize and build mainstream consensus on these issues. To gain support from the international community on these issues and specific cases of religious intolerance, CLAAS facilitates briefings and meetings with the diplomatic community in Islamabad. We also do lobbying with members of European Parliament, British Parliament and members of the United States Congress, Senate and the US State Department. CLAAS utilizes every opportunity to speak on international platforms highlighting various human rights violations to motivate and mobilize the opinion of the international community to intervene to make Pakistani government fulfill its obligations to international treaties and conventions it is signatory to. CLAAS along with other progressive individuals and human rights organizations has been very vocal on national and international platforms demanding the Pakistani government to make procedural amendments to stop the misuse of Blasphemy laws.



COMMUNITY AWARENESS PROGRAM

People who do not know about their human rights are the most vulnerable to having them abused and they often lack the skills and confidence to effectively advocate for their protection. Knowing your legal rights as a citizen is

important for the protection of these rights. CLAAS aims to empower people especially minorities and women with the knowledge of their rights. CLAAS is committed to raise the level of awareness on the importance of gender equality, religious tolerance and human rights. To achieve this goal we arrange workshops and seminars for survivors and other community members on legal rights, existing laws and legal systems in Pakistan, to sensitize and educate them on how they are affected by discriminatory laws and harsh practices, and how they can defend their rights. Most importantly through this awareness program, we sensitize our young girls and boys who are under high risk of being potential victims either of forced conversion, sexual assault or human trafficking. We discuss and share what preventive measures they can take to mitigate the risk of becoming a victim. CLAAS also arranges social integration programs to talk about the work of CLAAS and how our community can participate in our work to strengthen our struggle against injustice and discrimination.



WOMEN EMPOWERMENT/ SEWING CENTRE of CLAAS

Women empowerment is not possible without giving social, economic, political and personal rights to every female living in this country. There are various laws that are discriminatory against women and restrict them from participating in decision making. CLAAS is very vocal on women rights and has long struggled along with other prominent women rights organizations for the promotion of equal rights to education for girls, change of Pakistan family laws to protect women, equal pay scale for women and right to own property. CLAAS aims to end gender based violence and discrimination in our society. Through its platform, CLAAS encourages young girls to actively participate in all activities carried out in their own communities, churches, villages and even families to assert their presence. Empowering our young women can play a significant role in the economic development of our community and nation and that is only possible with women employment. To empower our young women, CLAAS has organized programs, workshops, skilled-based trainings for jewelry making, sewing and stitching, cosmetology and other activities to enable them to generate income to support themselves and their families. We also encourage our girls to gain education and in some cases, CLAAS financially supports girls who want to study but due to lack of financial means and family problems are unable to continue their education.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

The children at the brick kilns are the most deprived and marginalized section of the society. They are born in that situation and grow up as a part of the system where they cannot attend school and instead work with their parents. As their parents are busy in making bricks and paying off the debt to the owner, children are not aware about the religious, spiritual as well as academic education. In December 2015, during a visit at a brick kiln and having a discussion with the brick kiln families, Mr. M.A. Joseph Francis realized the need for these children to have basic Bible education. Sunday school is important in the spiritual development of Christians because it provides a forum for learning. Sunday school encourages spiritual interaction between the students and the teachers, as well as provides a comprehensive way of learning. CLAAS took initiative to start Sunday school at brick kilns in different areas near Lahore. Currently CLAAS supports five Sunday schools where almost 300 children are given Christian teachings through these schools.



SETTLEMENT OF SURVIVORS

In most cases of blasphemy the alleged victims are the sole bread earners of the family. With them behind bars the survival of the remaining family members becomes extremely difficult. They are refused jobs; they face social boycott and even threats to their lives. In such cases CLAAS provides monthly grocery and some financial help to these families. In some cases CLAAS provided an auto rickshaw to an adult member of each family so that they can earn their own living. CLAAS also encourages the Christian students to attain formal education. Any survivor who wishes to continue their study, CLAAS makes arrangements for their admission in regular schools and colleges.



DISASTER RELIEF/ MEDICAL SUPPORT

From the beginning of its operation CLAAS has been very active in providing immediate relief to survivors of mob attacks: on Churches, Christian residential areas, villages and now suicide bomb blasts in public places and parks. After an initial visit to the place of occurrence, CLAAS identifies the areas where assistance is needed. It has been observed that the individuals injured in bomb blasts require immediate and long term medical care. Most of these survivors live with lifelong physical and mental disabilities. Through its friends and partners CLAAS has been able to provide one time financial help to cover medical expenditures.



FEEDING PROJECT

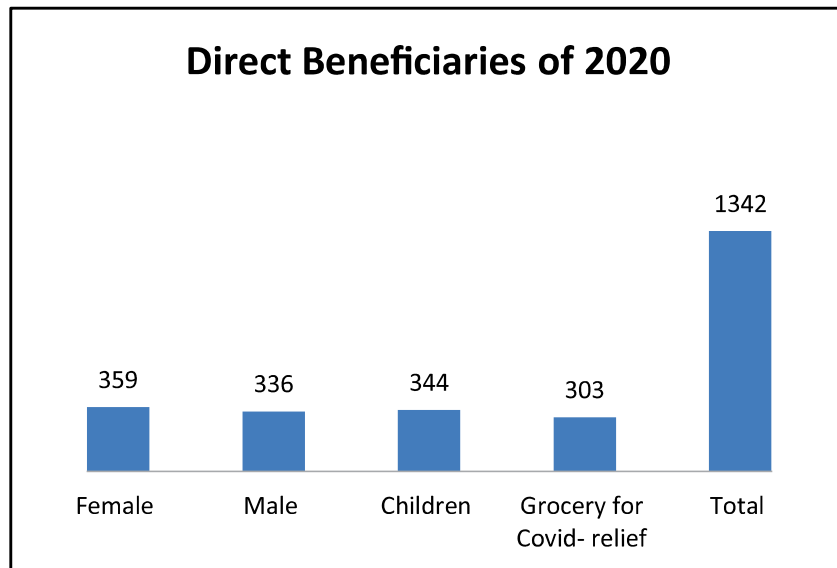
CLAAS always felt the need to do more in cases of Blasphemy where the male member of the family was accused and put behind bars. In almost every case the person accused was the sole bread earner of the family. CLAAS was also approached by many widows who were unable to feed their children due to lack of resources. Also there were victims' family members who were unable to find work. The **Barnabas Funds – UK** was the answer to CLAAS's prayers to help these Christian families in time of need. Barnabas supported CLAAS to start a Feeding Project to give monthly grocery to needy families. Right now through this project forty (40) Christian families are given groceries on a monthly basis.



CLAAS ACTIVITIES IN 2020



Nature of Activities	Total Activities	Women	Men	Children	Direct Beneficiaries
Free Legal Aid cases in 2020	38 Cases	26	26	09	61
Legal Aid in previous cases under proceedings in 2020	64 Cases	36	70	01	107
Fact Findings Community issues 02	14 Incident	01	08	03	12
Jail visits	06 Visits	00	04	00	04
Shelter Support in 2020		32	11	13	56
Social Integration/ Awareness Activities in Shelter Home	04 Event	67	23	14	104
Community Awareness Sessions	07 Session	157	166	00	323
Staff Capacity Building	03 Session	08	15	00	23
Skills Training Sessions	02 Session	24	00	00	24
Survivors' Financial Assistance		08	13	04	25
COVID-19 relief for poor families 208 for grocery and 55 for financially					263
Monthly Grocery Relief to the families					40
Christmas gifts distribution among Children at Brick kiln		00	00	300	300
Total Numbers of beneficiaries		359	336	344	1342

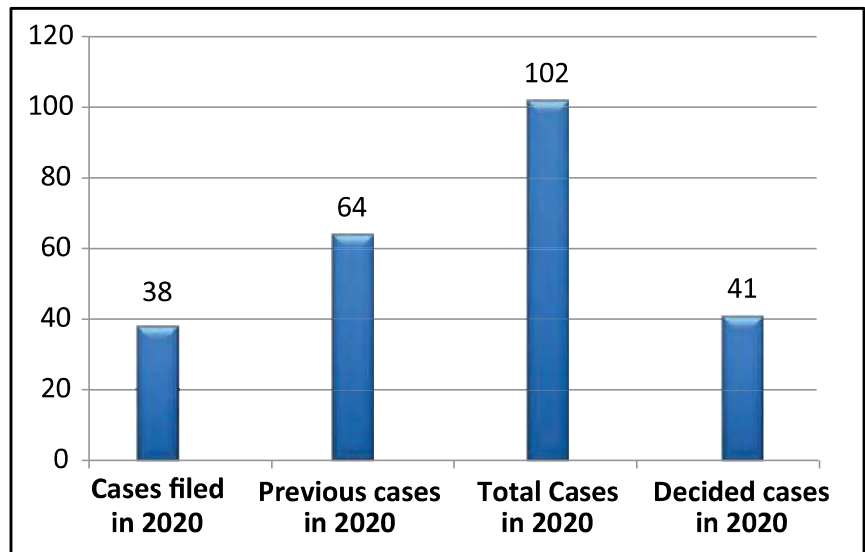


2020 started with the presumptuous threats of Coronaviruses till late March like the rest of the world we were not sure of the threats this virus would pose to people in general. The spread of COVID-19 in Pakistan and the restrictions imposed to combat the spread of this deadly virus disrupted the regular routine of our work and thus changing the norms we work and live. We did not deviate from our original activity plan but made few adjustments based on the present situation keeping safety of our staff and client a priority. Our office was closed for normal operation for two months during lockdown due to which maximum activities were conducted in May to December 2020. Our original annual 2020 Activity plan was focusing on 9 major areas:

- ✓ 102 cases are filed in the court for justice and 14 fact findings visits were conducted
- ✓ 06 jail visits conducted
- ✓ 56 individuals were provided safe accommodation
- ✓ 04 social integrations for shelter survivors were conducted
- ✓ 07 community sessions were conducted
- ✓ 03 sessions for staff capacity building were conducted
- ✓ 02 skills training sessions
- ✓ 328 people provided relief during Covid-19 (grocery and financial assistance)

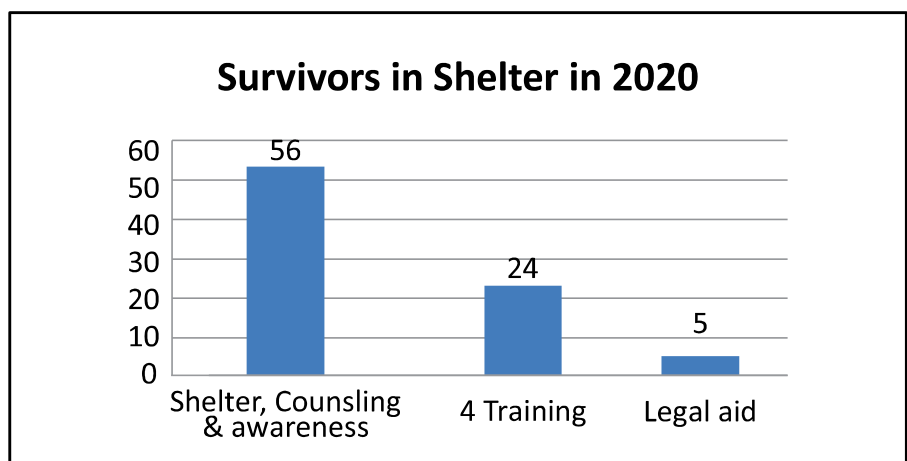
1- Legal Aid

In 2020 legal aid was provided by CLAAS in one hundred and two (**102**) cases (38 cases taken up in 2020 whereas 64 previous cases were under proceedings). Out of them fifty two (52) cases were under proceedings in Civil Courts and fifty (50) cases were under proceeding in Criminal Courts, forty (40) cases disposed of and sixty one (61) cases are still under proceedings.



2- Shelter Support

“Apna Ghar” is a home away from home for many women and children in distressed and difficult circumstances. The establishment for “Apna Ghar” was a response for women's need for safe shelter. A place where they could recover from their physical and emotional hurt until they were ready to face the world. The primary function of this shelter home is to offer protection against violence. Shelter is provided to any Christian female who fears threat to her life, who is in need of protection due to legal litigation, escaping sexual exploitation, victims of domestic violence, victims of sexual assault, victims of forced marriage, victims of forced conversion and victims of abduction or illegal confinement (private homes or brick kilns). Various activities are conducted for the shelter survivors by implementing Legal Aid if needed, Physical Facilities, Food, Clothes, Recreational facilities, Medical Assistance, Education, Skills Training and Counseling. In 2020 total 56 individuals including 32 women, 11 men and 13 children were accommodated during 12 months. Out of which 05 got free legal assistance, 24 are receiving skill training in beautician and stitching.



Survivors' Activities During Their Stay In Shelter Home



Legal counseling



Playing games



Participating in awareness sessions



Drawing or chart making



Morning Devotion



Survivors in shelter home

3-Stitching Training for Survivors

In 2020 CLAAS accommodated 24 young girls at CLAAS shelter home for stitching and beautician skills training. As these girls are living in different areas of Lahore and belongs to poor families and during the pandemic situation of COVID-19 laborers family are jobless and has no proper income resources for their family's needs. Many young girls who are illiterate and are staying at home approached CLAAS for help. While CLAAS shared with them about skills training for young girls their families requested shelter for their girls as it is not possible for them to arrange pick and drop for their young girls on daily basis. CLAAS organized stitching and beautician skills training in collaboration with NMS for the needy and poor girls who are staying at home and are interested to getting any skill. These girls are providing all basic necessities of life during the stay at shelter home and followed a time table according the activities. Shelter in-charge arranged all activities for them under the supervision of Program Officer CLAAS. CLAAS also arranged social integration for them to raise awareness so that they can aware about their issues and right and take preventive measures against the violence and discrimination against women as awareness, education and skills are necessary for women empowerment.



Stitching CLAAS



Receiving toolkit from trainer provided by CLAAS



Girls with their stitching samples

Beautician Class

(girls practicing in Class)

Facial and Massage



Learning Hair Style



Facial and Massage



4-Workshops Conducted by CLAAS in 2020

A. Activity:

In 2020 CLAAS conducted 07 awareness sessions for the community and in all sessions, three hundred and twenty three (323) individuals participated: one hundred and fifty seven (157) women, one hundred and sixty six (166) men participated.

B. Target and focused group:

Our focused group was vulnerable, marginalized, illiterate and poor Christian community, who is facing discrimination, hardships and injustice in all walks of life.

C. Target Area: Lahore

D. Purpose of the activities:

Due to lack of awareness, poverty, illiteracy, vulnerability the marginalized Christian community is become to the victim of violence, abuse and is discriminated by their own families, fellow citizen, landlords and majority groups. The purpose of CLAAS session was to motivate the marginalized Christian community standing up for their rights and dignity. Current issues related to women and religious minorities especially gender based violence against women and children, forced conversion of minor girls from Christian and Hindu communities. The workshops were targeted to mobilize, encourage, motivate, empower, and strengthen the survivors and potential survivors to be aware of their legal rights and how to combat any unfortunate incident.

E. Input

In all activities resource person was arranged by CLAAS for a briefing on the selected topics or issues. The resource persons used presentation, verbal discussion; question/answer, chart activities, story-telling to interact with the group.

As most of the participants were illiterate they were unable to fill the pre and post evaluation forms. CLAAS field staff helped the participants to fill the evaluation forms. Travel expenditures were paid to the participants. Light refreshment/ food was served as well.

F. Outcome

The outcome of CLAAS awareness sessions is that now people are raising their voices against violence and identifying the issues. In the previous years, only CLAAS spoke against the forced conversion of minorities' girls, misuse of the blasphemy law, and end to gender-based violence and now community have started participating in all activities against these issues. When an influential person try to implicate innocent people in any criminal case and harass them with the connivance of the police, in rebuttal affected people do not get intimidated instead they fight back.

G. Feedback:

All participants gave positive feedback after participating in awareness activity. Through CLAAS platform, the community and individuals learned to stay united for their rights, how to raise voice against violence, how to fight back against discrimination, which platforms to approach. Participants appreciated CLAAS work to engage community in various awareness programs. Participants shared that they have learnt that every individual has a potential to bring in a change and that the change is a collective effort initiated by individuals. All participants vowed to use and share the information they have gained through these sessions with their friends and other family members. They all agreed that we all vision a peaceful world to live in therefore it is everyone's responsibility to put in their efforts to achieve this goal.

Sr. No.	Activity Name	Female	Male	Children	Total
1	04 Social Integrations with shelter Survivors	67	23	14	104
2	07 community Sessions	157	166	00	323
3	03 staff Capacity Building	08	15	00	23
Total	14 sessions	232	204	14	450

1-Social Integration with Shelter Survivors

In 2020 CLAAS conducted 04 social integrations for the survivors of Apna Ghar and in all sessions, 104 members participated including 67 females, 23 Male, and 14 children.

The purpose of conducting this activity was to engage them in different activities to enhance their social skills, personal interaction, their confidence and uplift their morality. Shelter In-charge arranged these activities with women and children who were staying in shelter home. All members take different responsibilities and actively participated in the sessions. Periodically CLAAS evaluate the change and progress in the behavior of the residents. These same residents become CLAAS instrument of sharing valuable information about CLAAS work when they go back to their families and home. Following is the list and report of conducted activities:

Sr. #	Date	Topic/ Activity	Purpose	Goal & Objective	Number of Participants	Resource person
1.	July 17, 2020	Skill & education for women empowerment	To encourage women in getting education and skill training to uplift their personal life	Empowered women - strong society & stable Economic	16	Mr. Joseph Francis Mrs. Mural Saleem
2.	August 14, 2020	Social media and its impacts on society	To identify the harmful impacts of social media	To reduce the exposure and vulnerability of young girls and boys using social media	10	Mr. Joseph Francis Ms. Eiga Kenny
3.	October 14, 2020	Health and hygiene & Breast Cancer Awareness	To raise awareness on self-examination, personal female hygiene and taking preventive measure for healthy life	Healthy women & healthy society	18	Dr. Sarafeen
4.	December 18, 2020	Interfaith Christmas celebration	To ensure love, hope & promote peaceful coexistence	Interfaith harmony	60	CLAAS staff and survivors
Total Event 04					104	

1- On July 17, 2020 CLAAS organized a social integration program for young girls to encourage and inaugurate our first skill based training for Women Empowerment. The purpose of this session was to educate young participants that attaining any skill is an achievement for survival. The speaker coded some biblical reference and characters in favour of women financial independence. CLAAS National Director Mr. M.A. Joseph Francis MBE, Mrs. Mural Saleem (Board Member) and Pastor Rafique were the resource person of this session. They encouraged girls for getting education and skills for their empowerment as women are the most important part/member in the family and society. They also briefed that woman should be strong and courageous in speak their mind. Women are playing a vital role in society. Through different example the facilitator shared about the struggle and progress of women.



Feedback of participants:

All participants shared their personal experience on how their lack of information and knowledge about their rights led them to become a victim of abuse. Participants shared that before this they had never participated and never learnt about the importance of education and skills. They gave positive views that through this session they have learnt that not only education but skills are equally important for economic growth. They were happy to participate in the session and thankful to CLAAS for arranging this session and gave them the necessary awareness by conducting this activity for their awareness and empowerment.

2- On August 14, 2020, CLAAS held a social integration with survivors of Apna Ghar for celebrating Independence Day and give them awareness on the importance of freedom. Addressing the occasion Mr. Francis shared the history of Pakistan and the current situation of the country. He described democracy, religious freedom, and equal rights for minorities in Pakistan. Mr. Francis said that the youth and especially our young girls have an important role to play for the uplift of our community and country. The shelter girls performed on various National songs to show solidarity with the motherland. Through performance,



participants delivered the message of freedom of expression and freedom of belief. They also highlighted the issues of forced conversion of minorities' girls and violence against women. To reduce the vulnerability of illiterate and poor people should overcome on lack of awareness by raising awareness on the issues.

Feedback of participants:

The survivors encouraged CLAAS by giving positive feedback. Participants shared that CLAAS provided them a platform for their learning. Participants told that they got a chance to know their abilities by performing in this event. Through this activity, participants were able to know how they can defend themselves for their rights, how they can become an effective member of the community, and how they can speak against violence.



3- On October 14, 2020, an awareness session for the women survivors was conducted by CLAAS on health & hygiene. The purpose of this activity was to raise awareness on breast cancer and personal hygiene. The belonged to poor families where health and hygiene is not on their priority list. Due to cultural taboos female health care issues are not discussed or talked about, especially in the poor and lower-class families. Therefore due to lack of awareness, women face multiple health issues in young age. Due to poverty families cannot afford a healthy diet in their daily routine which becomes the cause of multiple

diseases. Early marriages, no birth control, and non-availability of proper health facilities also affect them badly. Dr. Sarafeen was the facilitator of this session who shared few simple methods and ways to maintain good health and hygiene. Through multimedia presentation she conveyed about the personal hygiene, preventive measures to overcome health issues and diseases especially breast cancer, blood sugar, high blood pressure, migraine, etc. she also gave awareness of birth control and HIV (AIDS).

Feedback of participants:

The women who participated in this session were very much thankful to CLAAS for conducting this session as they felt it was very informative. They also discussed their personal health issues. The participants asked CLAAS to have more of these sessions. The participants shared that being a woman they cannot share or discussed their personal health issues in their family due to conservative way of thinking that prevails in most of our families. Especially, when they have some gynaecology issues, often health complications effect and caused the change in behavior. When their family members feel a change in their health or routine they consider it to be due to black magic. In all these circumstances due to lack of awareness instead of providing them proper medical assistance, their family prefers a treatment from the magicians or the religious clerics. Moreover, many women have become a victim of sexual abuse by these healers or quack doctors. The session was ended with a positive feedback and hope for a change in our society.

4- On December 18, 2020 CLAAS held its annual Christmas staff lunch and social integration program with APNA GHAR residents. CLAAS National Director Mr. Joseph Francis was the Chief Guest of this event. After thanksgiving prayer children presented Christmas play and carol singing. Gifts were distributed among the survivors and cake cutting ceremony by Mr. Francis and the entire team of CLAAS. Lunch was served to the guests.



Cake cutting ceremony with survivors and guests

2-CLAAS conducted awareness session for community in 2020

Community Awareness and Prevention is an important component of our program. The purpose of these programs is to increase awareness on important social issues faced by the targeted group. Through these programs, we facilitate the community with the necessary tools and information on how to protect their rights during conflict. These sessions are designed using creative and interactive strategies, ensuring the community's engagement in all the activities.

CLAAS always felt a need for sustained efforts to educate individuals and boost public awareness about legal rights.

CLAAS has planned awareness sessions for the marginalized and poor community especially women and minorities and during the last five years CLAAS has conducted these sessions on various topics. The purpose of these workshops was to identify different forms of abuse, ways to stop these abuses, to prevent them and to report these abuses. The sessions were designed to provide adequate information to participants about their legal rights and to encourage them to challenge the inequalities and discriminatory practices and to become effective activists and agents of change.

In 2020 CLAAS conducted 07 awareness sessions for the community in which 323 community members participated including 157 women and 166 male. The detail of the sessions is below.

Sr. #	Date	Topic	Purpose	Goal and Objective	Total Participant
1.	February 21, 2020	Minority issues and legal Rights	To raise awareness regarding the current issues and rights of minorities. To motivate participants combating for rights and dignity through strong platforms	Elimination of violence	107
2.	March 07 , 2020	Women Rights and way to empowerment	To give awareness on violence against women, sexual harassment, Birth control, Importance of education Role of community and church for women empowerment	Commemorating International Women Day 2020	37
	March 09, 2020				38
3.	August 7, 2020	Child abuse and protection measures	Described child rights and protective laws Role of parents, church, and community for child protection	Ensuring Child Protection	23
4.	October 9. 2020	Social & Economic Empowerment	To give them awareness about income-generating through small business and encourage them for skill training	Financial stability/ Economical Independency	27
5.	October 12, 2002	Drug free society	To raise awareness to reduce	Facts and solution	24
6.	November 26 th 2020	Emotional & Trauma Healing through Faith	To strengthen women to raise voice against the violence and to overcome grief & trauma through their reliance.	Elimination of violence against	38
7.	December 10 th 2020	To End Gender Based Violence	To promote behavioral change in society so that they can accept each other for a bright society	behavioral change and acceptance of GBV as a crime	29
Total Participants					323

1- Community Awareness Sessions on Minority's Legal Rights:

On February 21, 2020, CLAAS organized an awareness session for the community on "Minority Issues and Legal Rights". Christian community members who are facing discrimination and especially victim families of the Youhanabad incident and community leaders participated in this session. Ret. Rev. Bishop Alexander John Malik shared the word of God and delivered the message of peace, love, prosperity and development. Mr. Joseph Francis National Director CLAAS described the suffering of the Christian community as they are facing discrimination in all walks of life. He guided the youth about



leadership skills, the importance of education, unity, and participation with the dedication to community development. He further shared that participation in the administration sector for policymaking, in law and enforcement agencies, politics, and in national development sectors is necessary for the bright future of Christians in Pakistan because by using these platforms we can bring change in the society. The Christian youth should get higher education and work for the national interest so that they can play a vital role in community development and empowerment. Strong political leadership can stand for the reforms in discriminatory laws, elimination of violence, and other related issues of religious minorities. The other community leaders also shared their views and described their struggle for their rights. All the acquitted prisoners of the Youhanabad incident paid tribute to Mr. Joseph Francis and CLAAS legal team for supporting them in their hard times. The participants also encouraged CLAAS for arranging the sessions for community awareness as through this platform they learnt about their rights and community issues. Through participation in these types of sessions, they are encouraged for community development. They also were thankful to CLAAS for hosting a thanksgiving prayer and lunch for the acquitted prisoners of Youhanabad incident

2- Community Awareness Sessions on Women Rights and women Empowerment:



On March 08th, 2020 CLAAS conducted an awareness session for the community to give awareness on "Women Rights and Empowerment". Victims and brick kiln workers participated in this session. The purpose of this session was to Commemorate International Women Day and to celebrate the lives of many women who struggle for the freedom of all. More than 30 community members including human rights activists, clergy, teachers, social activists, advocates, and survivors of gender-based violence participated in this session. Through open discussion participants shared individual struggles to fight for

their rights. The role of community and church to encompass women empowerment was also the part of this discussion. The survivors shared their stories and learnt how women can support each other to gain confidence. The session was end with different views and feedback from the participants.

On March 09, 2020 CLAAS organized community awareness session at a Brick Kiln with the bonded labour community. This session was arranged to share celebrate the international Women's day. More than 35 brick kiln workers participated in this session and gave a positive feedback. The community who works at the brick kiln, especially women are deprived of all basic necessities of life. There is no health care facilities, school or any recreational facility. Giving their feedback they said that educated and people living in cities and beautiful houses look down on them and they would feel ashamed to visit their houses.



They said they are honoured to receive CLAAS staff and very happy to gain this important information. The community served CLAAS team with homemade tea and simple snacks. CLAAS team was also invited by a local church in Hamza Town - Lahore to speak to the congregation about human rights and legal system. CLAAS also participated in a procession to strengthen women rights and support women empowerment.

3- Community Awareness Sessions on Child abuse and protection

On August 07, 2020 CLAAS held awareness session for the community on Child Abuse and Child Protection. Community members and victim families participated in this session.



The purpose of this session was to give awareness to parents and elders of the families to prevent children from being sexually assaulted.

The session was led by Mr. Tahir Bashir Advocate and Rubina Ghazal In-charge Legal Department. It was discussed that parents do not pay much attention to their children and ignore them due to various domestic issues. Further parents send them with relatives and neighbors who in many cases were the prime perpetrators. Through this session, parents learned that they should enhance

their parenting skills to promote a healthy family atmosphere, good social values, and healthy family discussion for children's development. Child abuse is a serious problem that has lasting harmful effects on its victim. Parents can play a major role to prevent children from sexual abuse. The laws for child protection were also shared with the participants. More than 20 participants join this session and gave a positive feedback.

4- Community Awareness Sessions on Social & Economic Empowerment

CLAAS organized an awareness session for the labour community to give awareness on Social and Economic Empowerment. Our labour community is already vulnerable and living under the poverty line and they are fighting the battle against hunger and unemployment. The purpose of this session was to share the ideas with them that how they can economically empower themselves by using their skills and become financially independent and enjoy a happy life. They were briefed about different skills and technical institutes. The facilitators also discussed Gender Equality, Equal Rights and Opportunities for men and women, social interaction, and tools of small businesses for income-generating to overcome poverty and unemployment.



5- Community Awareness Sessions on Drug free society



CLAAS organized an awareness session for the community to give awareness for a drug-free society. The purpose of this session was to identify the problem of drug addicts and taking preventive measures to reduce the number of drug addicts from society. Through different examples of case studies participants discussed the facts behind the drug addiction. The participants shared the issues and behavior of drug adductors. Drug addiction can affect mental cognition, including decision making, judgments, and memory. It also causes speech problems. Drug addiction can be treated. Drug addiction is life-

threatening. However, people with this addiction can be treated and helped with therapy, counseling, and taking medicines along with rehab centers. They do follow-ups to ensure that they will never retake these drugs. They must have their family and friends to support them as they recover. But unfortunately, the poor society and poor people do not know about the various treatment methods i.e. behavioral counseling, medication, and treatment of anxiety and depression, rehabilitation centres, as well as do not support to the drug addicts to prevent relapse. The addictors' families are suffering due to poverty, lack of awareness and financial crises therefore they cannot pay attention to them. The rehabilitation centre in Pakistan charges are very high for the treatment which is not affordable by a poor family.

6- Community Awareness Sessions on Trauma Healing

CLAAS held a community awareness session on November 26, 2020 with on Emotional & Trauma Healing through Faith for female survivors of gender base violence (GBV survivors). The session was led by Rev. Ujala and coordinated by legal department staff. The purpose of this session was to seek ways through individual faith to heal our soul and mind and to gain the strength to stop violence. Rev. Ujala shared a story of a Samaritan woman on the well, who met Jesus. Through this story she emphasized the strength in clinging to one's spiritual faith to overcome negativity in life. She shared the message that how



faith can promote positivity and harmony. The participants expressed that to eliminate violence from our society was a big challenge but we as a community should not stop raising our voices against the abusive attitude toward women.

To strengthen each other survivors shared their testimonies.

The event was organized in CLAAS office and more than 35 women participated in this session from different areas of Lahore. Participants learnt about different ways to bring change in their lives and society through their unity, compassion and healthy family atmosphere. The participants showed solidarity with each other and encouraged CLAAS for conducting these types of sessions for them. The session was ended with positive feedback. Tea and delicious food was served to the participants.

7- Community Awareness Sessions To End Gender-Based Violence



December 10, 2020, to celebrate International Human Rights Day and 16 days of activism to End Gender-Based Violence CLAAS held a session with GBV survivors. Each participant vowed to work individually and collectively to fight against gender-based violent attacks. Some of the GBV survivors shared their stories and how they overcame their fear to stand up against abuse. Different forms of violence, protecting laws, legal procedures, institutes working for human rights, and the values of social and religious culture were shared with the participants so that they can use these platforms in the right way and at the

right time to get justice and to end gender-based violence from our society. Participants were shared why people around the world participate in women rights activities from 25th November to 10th December. All the participants had an orange scarf to show solidarity against GBV.

Sr. #	Date	Topic	Purpose	Goal and Objective
1.	January 9 th to January 10 th , 2020 &	Punjab Forensic Science Agency	To enhance knowledge regarding the working institute	Staff awareness about the procedures of investigation by law
		Jail Manual	Data collection	
2.	August 31 st to September 3 rd 2020	Team building	To provide better working environment and effective activism	Staff learnt how they can reduce conflict as team member and by using their skills and abilities participate in organizational progress
		Human right and leadership skills		
3.	December 15, 2020	Report writing	Methods of fact collecting for report writing	Staff learnt on how to document a human rights incident.

1- Session on Punjab Forensic Science Agency & Jail Manual

CLAAS arranged two days of staff capacity building session on Punjab Forensic Science Agency and Jail Manual. On the first day January 9th 2020 Mr. Nasir Anjum Advocate High Court who was the facilitator of this session shared about the procedure of the investigation by court and law through Punjab Forensic Science Agency (PFSA) which is existing at Thokar Niaz Baig, Multan Road, Lahore. The Punjab Forensic Science Agency is an agency under the Home Department, of the provincial Government of Punjab of Pakistan. It provides



forensic science services primarily to law enforcement in the Province. He briefly shared about the methods and procedures of the agency while conducting an investigation regarding the evidence for criminal court procedures to testify various examination reports i.e.

DNA test, Forensic toxicology, Firearm and tool marks, Question documents, Drugs, Fingerprints, Trace chemistry, Audio-video, etc and also told about the types of forensic investigation. He told that a forensic scientist not only in analyzing and interpreting evidence but also challenge in court while providing expert witness testimony. Through this session, the staff knows about the importance of the evidence to defend innocent people during the trial courts.



On the second day January 10th, 2020 CLAAS staff was briefed regarding the jail manual and jail reforms. Mr. Tahir Bashir and Miss Ayesha Boota Advocate were the resource persons of this session. They shared their massive knowledge about the jail manual and talked about those facilities which are provided by the government to the prisoners. The current situation of jails, administrative problems, overcrowding & lack of training, and outdated methods of treating prisoners were shared. The facilitators shared that the present structure of the Prison system in Pakistan can be traced back to British India. At present, there

are 99 Prisons in Pakistan which includes four Women's Jails one jail in Punjab i.e. Women Jail, Multan, and three jails in Sindh Province. However, women prisoners are also kept in separate portions of other jails. Mr. Tahir Bashir Advocate shared about the rules, rights, and duties of the prisoners. There are 50 chapters and 1250 legal rights and rules regarding the prisoners which are followed by the jail administrative staff as per need. The prison law is existing in Pakistan but unfortunately, these rules are not very much appreciable. Miss Ayesha Boota Advocate gave a PowerPoint presentation on the numbers of jails in Pakistan and told about the women's jail and juvenile jails which are working in Pakistan. According to both our resources persons Pakistan lacks a systematic program for the capacity building of the prison staff. That is why they are unable to treat the prisoners according to their rights.

2- Team building and Human Rights & Leadership Skills

August 31- 2020 to September 3rd 2020 CLAAS held a three-day staff capacity building in O' Spring Murree. Ms. Tahira Abdullah (a renowned human rights defender) and Mr. Albert David MBE (a social activist) was the resource person. The three-day' workshop was focused on team building and human rights, leadership, and influencing skills. The recourse person shared their immense knowledge with the staff. Through different examples and multimedia presentations, staff learned about the unity, conflict resolution, team building,



effective knowledge, skills, and abilities of leaders and human rights defenders. Through different group activities, participants were encouraged to work together to achieve similar goals. Besides learning and enhancing their skills staff went out for an excursion. It was a wonderful opportunity to bond with their colleagues. The purpose of this particular activity is to enhance the knowledge of the staff who is working in the organization so they can use their abilities and skill for personal and organizational progress. They can able to decision making in their present posts and affiliation regarding their work.

3- Report Writing skills



The session was arranged for the field staff that conducts the fact-finding missions and collect data for reporting. The facilitator Ms. Eiga Kenny shared the importance of gathering data and then compiling a concise documenting on the relevant information. It was also discussed how to identify/extract relevant data from non-relevant data. It was shared with the field staff their report has to be only collection of information and impartial documentation of facts. The fact finding team must give their collective observations. Through this session, staff learned how they can make a report on various incidents, which is based on

actual facts, focused on the relevant issue, impartial finding and observations. It was an informal interactive sessions and everyone joined the discussion.

JAIL VISITS

CLAAS conducted six jail visits as planned.
The list and detail is below:

Sr. No	Name of the Jail	Date of visit	Team members
1.	Adailia Jail Rawalpindi	September 9, 2020	Mr. Tahir Bashir Advocate Ms. Rubina Ghazal Ms. Sonia David Mr. Paras Abdoon
2.	Faisalabad Jail	October 03, 2020 (Saturday)	Ms. Rubina Ghazal Ms. Sonia David Mr. Paras Abdoon
3.	Faisalabad Jail	October 10, 2020	Ms. Rubina Ghazal Mr. Paras Abdoon
4.	Sahiwal Jail	October 08, 2020	Ms. Rubina Ghazal Mr. Paras Abdoon
5.	Sahiwal Jail	November 12, 2020	Mr. Asif Raza Mr. Paras Abdoon
6.	District Jail Sheikhupura	December 14, 2020	Ms. Eiga Kenny Mr. Sohail Habel



LOBBYING AND ADVOCACY



On March 17th 2020 Mr. Joseph Francis had a meeting with His Excellency Mr. Rolf Holmboe Ambassador of Denmark to Pakistan.



On March 9th Mr. Joseph Francis had a meeting with Netherlands Ambassador at Pearl Continental hotel. They had very productive discussion on different topics and issues. Mr. Peter Jacob and Mr. Sajid Christopher were also there in meeting.

February 26, 2020 Mr. Richard Crowder The British Deputy High Commissioner invited Mr. Joseph Francis MBE to attend the Annual Consular Reception at the British High Commission Islamabad. Mr. Joseph Francis met with many members of British High Commission and talked on different issues related to Human Rights.



On March 4th 2020 Ms. Anne Marchal Head of the European Union visited Mr. Joseph Francis MBE and CLAAS office; she discussed on different issues regarding the blasphemy, force conversion, force marriage of under aged girls. After the meeting she visited all the departments of CLAAS office and appreciated CLAAS work for the persecuted people.



February 11, 2020 CLAAS had its Annual Board Meeting. Mr. Marvin Pervez chaired the meeting other respected Board Members Mr. Younis Rahi, Mr. Pervez Barkat, Father Cecil Paul, Ms. Risha Qader Baksh and Ms. Mural Saleem also participated in the meeting. They discussed about the given agenda and also about the growth of the organization.

A power point presentation was given to the Board Members with the narrative report of legal and other activities of the previous year. Board Members also visited the shelter home and appreciated Mr. Joseph Francis and CLAAS Team for all their efforts and hard work.

On February 6th 2020 CLAAS had a staff meeting with the Working Committee from CLAAS Board regarding the staff evaluation. Members of Working Committee Father Cecil Paul, Mr. Pervaiz Barkat and Ms. Mural Saleem went through the evaluation forms and after that had a meeting with staff. Mr. Joseph Francis shared his whole journey about Youhanabad case. Mr. Tahir Bashir Advocate also told about the legal procedure of Youhanabad case. Mr. Pervaiz Barkat appreciated CLAAS staff and their work regarding the Human Rights issues and specially the great success Youhanabad case.



Father Cecil Paul also appreciated CLAAS work and its dedication towards the persecuted people. At the end CLAAS Team shared their views about their experiences in CLAAS office.



On January 22, 2020 Mr. Joseph Francis had a very industrious and useful meeting with Mr. Wutz, Andreas first secretary of the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany. Mr. Joseph Francis discussed on various complex issues and Mr. Andreas showed his acute attention in these issues.



On January 6th 2020 CLAAS had a thanksgiving prayer at CLAAS office which was led by Fr. Cecil Paul Board Member CLAAS. We are thankful to our God almighty for another year in our lives and His blessings for CLAAS organization as God is using us for their people.



On January 24th 2020 Mr. Joseph Francis MBE and Mr. Tahir Bashir advocate attended the meeting at HRCP Secretariat about the Day of the Endangered Lawyers.

On January 22, 2020 Mr. Joseph Francis MBE had a wonderful meeting with Ms. Ann Marchal Head of Mission Delegation of the European Union to Pakistan. Mr. Francis discussed on the different sensitive issues and cases regarding the rights of minorities.



COVID-19 Relief:

The emergence of Coronavirus is threatening the whole world but its impact is most devastating in our part of the world; where the majority live below the poverty line. CLAAS with the support of its partners and friends was able to provide grocery packet with health and hygiene items to hundred (100) Christian families and 108 from other communities. These families were mainly from Lahore and its surrounding areas. These were the people who were already vulnerable and living under the poverty line and now they are fighting the battle against hunger, unemployment and high risk of being infected by this contagious virus due to non-availability of any protective items. During these challenging times every little support to these vulnerable groups revived their faith in humanity. Few of the individuals were also given financial support to pay off their monthly rent.

Grocery to 47 individuals from daily wages labour community (Christian & Muslims)

Grocery to 37 individuals from transgender community (Christian & Muslims)

Grocery to 16 individuals (disabled, sick and widow) (Christian & Muslims)

Grocery and Rent to 08 individuals (Christian & Muslim)

Grocery to 100 Christian families

Grocery to 200 Christian families



CHRISTMAS GIFTS DISTRIBUTION

among the children at brick kilns
& Sunday school students in collaboration
with CLAAS UK

In Pakistan, brickmaking is one of the most important building materials industries employing about 10 million people directly and indirectly. However, an estimated two million children also work for up to 14 hours a day, six days a week in brickmaking kilns, lacking basic rights and access to social security. The brick kiln workers are live below the poverty line. It is difficult to help all the people working at brick kiln however CLAAS made its best efforts to engage the brick kiln laborer by conducting different activities for them. Through distributing of gifts among the children on Christmas occasions CLAAS shared happiness with those people. Since 2015 CLAAS is conducting awareness sessions at brick kilns on various correlated issues therefore CLAAS always tried to expedite the deserving people at brick kiln by providing assistance in different matters i.e. legal assistance, shelter support, education if needed, medical assistance.



On few brick kilns, CLAAS is also supporting Sunday school's education but due to no sufficient funds, we are unable to run these Sunday schools properly. Still, we are working on these brick kilns by conducting different activities. Further in collaboration with CLAAS UK since many years we are distributing gifts among the children on Christmas as it gives immense happiness to the children. In 2020 CLAAS distributed gifts among 300 children at 10 Brick kilns.



CARRIED OUT FACT-FINDINGS IN 2020

Sr.#	Survivors Name	Nature of the Case	District/ Police Station etc	Status
1.	Saira Bibi	House Burnt	Multan January 01, 2020	Fact Finding by CLAAS on January 03, 2020.
2.	Saleem s/o Ghaffor Masih (old man at brick kiln)	Murdered	Police Station Allah Abad District Kasur FIR No. 161/20 February 25, 2020	Fact Finding by CLAAS on March 3, 2020 and Legal Aid was provided
3.	Boota Masih	Murdered	Police station City Chunian District Kasur FIR No. 255/20 March 29, 2020	Fact Finding by CLAAS on April 14, 2020. Legal Aid was provided
4.	Victor Lawrence	Murdered	Amrat Nager, Village Mian Chanchu	Fact Finding by CLAAS on May 30, 2020.
5.	Hindu Community Property Issue	Property Dispute with Government	Mandi Yazman District Bahawalpur	Fact Finding by CLAAS on May 30, 2020 Hindu Community Issue
6.	Trinity Pentecostal Church	Church Property Dispute	Hakeem Pura District Sheikhupura ,	Fact Finding by CLAAS in May 2020 Christian Community Issue
7.	Ghulfam s/o Abbas Masih	Sodomy Case	Bikhi District Sheikhupura	Fact Finding by CLAAS on June 15, 2020 Legal Aid was provided
8.	Nadia Boota (minor girl)	Sexual Assault	Tehsil Chunia District Kasur	Fact Finding by CLAAS on June 24, 2020 Legal Aid was provided
9.	Kamran Samuel	Dispute	Shikhupura	Fact Finding by CLAAS on July 2, 2020
10.	Nabeel Danish	Kidnapping	Raiwind City Lahore	Fact Finding by CLAAS in August 2020 Legal Counseling was provided
11.	Arzoo Raja	Forced conversion and Forced Marriage	Karachi	Fact Finding by CLAAS on October 04, 2020
12.	Yasir Mukhtar	Killed/ suicide	Police Station Nishatabad Faisalabad	Fact Finding by CLAAS on October 31, 2020 Legal Aid was provided
13.	Muritza Ali	Blasphemy case	Vahari	Fact Finding by CLAAS on November 12, 2020. Legal Aid was provided
14.	Azeem Masih etc	Hurting religious sentiments	Narowal	Fact Finding by CLAAS on December 30, 2020.

1- Fact Finding Report of house burning in Multan

Saira, a single parent of three young children had to leave her home in Multan and move to Lahore, after an incident involving her children. Luckily she was offered a job by Salvation Army with accommodation and hostel facility for her children. She locked the house and only took necessary items for her children and moved to Lahore in September 2019. Once she was settle in her new job in Lahore she visited her house in Multan. After midnight on January 1st, 2020 Saira received a call from her neighbours that her house caught a fire and they had to call the fire brigade team to extinguish the fire. Saira was speechless. The next morning she went to Multan and was devastated to see that her house was completely burnt from inside. According to her neighbour, who witnessed the incident, on 1st January 2020 around 11:45 pm, he felt a very strong smell of something burning, he went out to see if someone was burning trash, instead



he saw a thick smoke coming from Saira's house, the neighbours knew that the house was locked. They immediately called the fire rescue. The rescue team arrived within minutes and was able to extinguish the fire. Saira called CLAAS office to inform them of the incident, she shared with CLAAS that she suspect that someone purposely tried to set her house on fire with the intention of confiscating her property. CLAAS advised her to inform the local police station about this so they can probe into this matter. As advised, Saira called the police helpline at 15th. Police arrived at the site and on her complaint an FIR was registered in Police Station Record Management System Multan. The next day CLAAS team also visited her house and saw the burnt house. Police after proper investigation confirmed that the fire was a result of electrical short circuit and not arson incident. Saira and her children are still residing in Lahore; where she is working to save some money to repair her house

2- CLAAS Fact Finding Report on Victor Lawrence Murder case



CLAAS team comprising of Miss Shama John, Mr. Sohail Habel and Mr. Paras Abdoon visited Amrat Nager, village # 133/16 L District Mianchannu on 30th May, 2020 for a fact finding of a murder of a nineteen year old Victor Lawrence son of Lawrence Masih. The team first point of contact was the deceased's family. Talking to the team Lawrence Masih, father of the deceased said that on 18th May 2020 Victor left home with his friends Imran Shareef and Riaz Masih, who promised him a job in Rawalpindi. Victor promised to call his parents once in Rawalpindi but they never received a call from him.

On 23rd May 2020 at about 6pm they heard lot of noise outside their house, Lawrence opened the door to see what was going on, he was astonished to see a body lying in front of their door step, and it was covered with a sheet. A lot of surrounding people were gathered outside their house. When he removed the sheet from the face he was shocked to see that it was his own son's body. He asked from the crowd if anyone knew who left the body but no one said anything. Lawrence believes that someone must have seen but now people were afraid to speak. He believes that his son was murdered by his friends Imran Shareef and Riaz Masih after sexual assault. He further stated that there were injury marks on his body and neck to confirm that he was tortured before being killed

Police registered an FIR No: 252/20 under section 302/34 (murder) of Pakistan Penal Code against Imran Shareef and Riaz Masih. No one was arrested. Lawrence Masih believe that police was favouring the accused. CLAAS team also visited the concerned police station of Amrat Nager and met with the IO (investigating officer). According to the investigating officer Victor committed suicide and there is nothing in the medical report to suggest otherwise, he further said that the medical report has not confirmed any sexual act being



committed with the deceased. According to the FIR two unknown person left the dead body of Victor at the doorstep of Lawrence Masih at about 11:45pm. CLAAS team offered their full support and any legal assistance needed by the family at any point.



3- Fact finding Report of CLAAS in Mandi Yazman District Bahawalpur

On 30th May 2020 CLAAS team visited Mandi Yazman in district Bahawalpur for a fact finding of demolition of Hindu community settlement. According to the initial report 40 houses of Hindu community were demolished by the Government and many members of the Hindu community alleged it was a matter of religious discrimination since majority of the settlers are from Hindu community.

The team first visited the site of occurrence and met with the affected families. The community was furious and claimed it be an intentional conspiracy against the Hindu community. They blamed the local authorities for orchestrating this for bribe and money. Many of the settlers claimed that they bought the land from Mansha Ram, whom they paid money to purchase the land they have built their houses on, at the time of payment they were promised ownership document but have not received anything and Mansha Ram has vanished. To stop the demolition the community approached the High Court and got a stay orders against the destruction of their houses. Despite the Court orders their houses were bulldozed. Member of the Punjab Assembly Mahinder Pal assured the affected families that he will do everything in his political domain to seek justice for the aggrieved families. The team then went to meet with the Deputy Commissioner Bahawalpur Mr. Shozab Saeed. Also present in the meeting was member of Punjab Assembly Mr. Mahinder Pal Singh (from Sikh community) and Advocate Saleem Gill. Talking to the team Mr. Saeed said that only 10 to 12 houses were demolished which were built recently on the Government property without permission and no other houses were demolished. He insisted that this was not done to target any specific community but the demolished houses were squatters. He said that he was not aware of any stay orders from the Court. He further stated that he will investigate the whole matter and will meet with the residents whose houses were demolished. He assured the team of his full cooperation in resolving this matter. The case of ownership is in the court now and waiting to be decided. CLAAS lawyer Mr. Saleem Gill is handling this case, until the court's decision they cannot build anything on this place.

4- Fact Finding Report of Trinity Pentecostal Church Desecration

News of desecration of a church in sheikhupura was surfing on the social media. CLAAS received several enquiries concerning this news. To acquire the actual facts and assess the situation CLAAS field staff visited the place of occurrence. The Trinity Pentecostal Church is located at Mahala Haqeempura in District Sheikhupura, Pakistan. The Church building was built 22 years ago by its late Pastor Younas Minhas. Presently the Pastor in-charge of the Church is Rev. Samuel Hidayat and Pastor Kamran Younis is serving as his junior pastor. There are about 400 Christian families living in that area.



The registered members of this Church are almost 65 families and every Sunday 175 to 200 people assemble there for worship. The present Church building is built on 5 Marla area, the management wanted to add an extension to the existing Church building. According to the Junior Pastor Kamran Younis, they bought a piece of land adjacent to the church from Imran who lives in Gujranwala. After the purchase and all the required documentation was completed, the management started the construction. On May 9th, 2020 a man named Ayan Abbas Malik came and asked the workers to stop the construction of the church, he claimed to own the land where Christians were building their church. After heated arguments he left and later in the day a gang of young men attacked the workers doing the construction work. Some of the men in the gang had firm arms and they threatened to use it if the Christians did not stop construction. One of the residents called the police rescue at "15". Once the police arrived at the scene the assailants disappeared. When Pastor in-charge came back; he took members of his congregations to the local police station and submitted an application against Ayan Abbas Malik and his companions. On the complaint of the pastor police registered the FIR. Police also arrested some of the accused but were later released by the police. According to police the arrested were just the workers and had no connection with this incident. CLAAS offered the Church free legal services but pastor Kamran told the CLAAS team that they already have a lawyer but if needed; they will contact CLAAS.

Fact Finding Report on missing Nabeel Danish

August 27th, 2020 Nadeem Danish son of Rasheed Masih, resident of Christian Colony, Raiwind approached CLAAS for legal help after his thirteen (13) year old son Nabeel Danish went missing since August 16th 2020. Nadeem has six children, five boys and one daughter. Nabeel was their second child.

They are all school going children. His wife Nusrat stay's at home while he works at a motor vehicle showroom in Lahore. On Sunday 16th, August 2020 before he left for work he told his older son Aneel Danish to accompany Nabeel Danish to church. He gave thirty rupees to Nabeel for church offering and left for work. At about 11:30 am Aneel came back home alone and told his mother Nusrat that he did not saw Nabeel in the church. When he did not come back after 3pm she got worried and called her husband to inform him. Nadeem came back from work at 7:30 pm but Nabeel was still missing. They started making calls to their relative to see if Nabeel went to any of their house.

The next day August 17th, 2020 Nadeem gave an application in the Raiwind City Police station informing police that his son Nabeel was missing. According to him police did not gave a positive response and told him that his son must have had a fight at home and ran away with his own will. Nadeem and his male relatives continue to look for their son while persuading the police to register kidnapping case under section 365 of Pakistan Penal Code. After 5 days on August 21, 2020 police registered an FIR 1852/20 against unknown personnel. On August 24th, 2020 Nadeem gave another application to the police nominating seven people he suspected could have been involved in kidnapping his son. Police arrested few of the nominated but after questioning released all and kept only Kamran and Awas alias Sonu.

On 28th, August 2020 CLAAS team comprising of Ms. Eiga, Ms. Shama, Mr. Tahir Bashir and Sohail Habel went to visit the aggrieved family. The team met with the mother and other relatives and learnt that Nabeel was a good student and just passed his 8th grade with very good marks. His older brother Aneel told the team that Nabeel was very close friends with two neighbouring Muslim boys Kamran and Sonu who were older than him. The team also learnt that one of the local resident Shahid who has a small convenient store in the market, saw Nabeel with Sonu riding on the motorbike on the day he went missing. The team met with the Investigating Officer Asghar Ali who told the team that he along with Nadeem had spent the whole day looking at the Raiwind city CC TV camera footage for 16th to see if they could detect Nabeel but nothing was found. The IO Asghar told the team that at present he was only holding one suspect Sonu in custody for interrogation. The team also met with the suspect Sonu. The Investigating Officer assured CLAAS team that he will do everything to recover the child. Before leaving Raiwind, CLAAS team advised Nadeem to cooperate with the Investigating Officer and if police failed to do their job then CLAAS will take further steps.

On 29th, August 2020 at about 9pm CLAAS received a call from Nadeem that police has recovered his son Nabeel.

6- CLAAS Fact-Finding Report of Arzoo Raja case

Every year in Pakistan, several young Christian and Hindu girls are forcibly converted to Islam and married to their abductor. The forced conversion of these minor girls is often orchestrated on gunpoint, inducement or enticement. Most of the minor girls are sexually abused by these abductors and then they are converted and married to save themselves from the rape punishment. Many families choose not to report these cases due to the influence of the Muslim majority or the biased attitude of the police and the Courts.

Furthermore, if somehow a case is registered, the court's practice has typically been not to decide custody matters in favour of the girl's family; even when the victims are 09 or 12 years old. Whereas, throughout the whole process of court trial and testifying in court, the girl would remain in the custody of the perpetrator, and then she will facilitate a testimony in favour of the abductor as a result of constant pressure and fear of violent retaliation.

Brief Facts of Arzoo Raja Case:

Arzoo Raja a thirteen year old was another victim of State's impotence to protect its weakest citizens a minor girl from minority community. Social media was flooded with the news of a minor Christian girl Arzoo Raja being abducted and forced into conversion to Islam and marriage to a 44 year old Ali Azhar. To gather the actual facts of the incident and assess how CLAAS can intervene and assist in this case a fact finding team consisting of Mr. Tahir Bashir Advocate, Ms. Rubina Ghazal and Sohail Habel travelled to Karachi.

Raja Masih works as a driver in a rent-a-car while his wife Rita works as a caretaker in a local Montessori school. They have four children; three daughters and one son. Arzoo was the youngest; she was studying in 6th grade. On 13th October Raja and his wife left for work early morning at about 09:30 am he received a call from his relative that Azroo was missing, He immediately reached home and started searching for his daughter in the neighborhood and with relatives. After not finding her clue, he approached the local police station and gave an application for the registration of a case. On his application the Frere police station Karachi registered an FIR No. 302/2020 under section 364A (abduction) of the Pakistan Penal Code against the unknown person. A day later Raja found out that his neighbor Ali Azhar was involved in the abduction of his minor child.

He approached the police for help but police refused to help him stating that his daughter has now embraced Islam and was a legal wife of Ali Azhar therefore no action can be prompted against them.

Raja and his wife Rita might have lost their hope of ever seeing their daughter again if it wasn't for a local social activist and evangelist Ghazala Shafique who took a bold step in highlighting this case to the public through social media. The parents blamed their minority status to be the cause of losing their child. Their plea and misery against this atrocity invoked many civil society organizations, Church leadership and social organizations to come out on the streets to protest against this lawlessness with which girls from Christian and Hindu community had been lured, abducted and forced into conversion and married with their abductor. People demanded the State to produce Arzoo and arrest her abductor Ali Azhar.

Meanwhile, the accused Ali Azhar through his counsel filed a petition on behalf of Arzoo for protection in the concerned City Court Karachi. In the petition Arzoo stated that she was scared for her life as she had life threats from her parents and Christian community; who are enraged over her marriage to a Muslim man. She also recorded her statement before the Judicial Magistrate Karachi that she was an adult (18years old) and has willfully embraced Islam and has married Azhar Ali with her freewill. The court accepted her petition for protection and issued a notice to the concerned Station House Officer (SHO) police station Frere Karachi South for further procedure and fixed it for hearing on November 11th, 2020.

The perpetrator Azhar Ali filed another petition in the Sindh High Court on behalf of Arzoo for the dismissal of Raja Masih's FIR against him. A prominent human rights activists and a lawyer Mr. Jabran Nasir was hired to represent Arzoo's parents Raja and Rita Masih in the court. On November 2nd, 2020 Mr. Jabran took a stance that Arzoo was a minor and thus challenged her marriage to Ali Azhar under the "Sindh Child Marriage Restraint Act 2013" and "Sindh Child Marriage Restraint Rules 2016". Under these Acts a minor cannot be married to an adult. The relevant documents including her official birth certificate from NADRA, her baptism certificate and school admission form stating her age were submitted in the court to confirm her age being thirteen years old.

After much hype of this case on the social and electronic media the local administration became active and immediately took the minor (Arzoo) into State custody. She was sent to Dar-ul Aman (a government run shelter home), her abductor Ali Azhar was also taken into police custody. Police also arrested Sayed Mohsin Ali, Sayed Shariq Ali (brothers of Ali Azhar) and one Danish s/o Abdullah who facilitated Ali Azhar in this abduction and unlawful marriage. Arzoo was scheduled to record her statement in the Sindh High Court on 5th November 2020.

Arzoo's parents pleaded before the court that she was a minor and cannot embrace Islam or contract into marriage. They demanded her custody.

On November 5th, 2020 the court started at about 9: 00 AM, and the case was heard by the Divisional Bench of Sindh High Court headed by Mr. Justice K. K. Agah Khan. The courtroom was filled with people from both majority and minority communities, members of civil society community and church leaders. Arzoo was produced before the court in the custody of three female police constables. She recorded her statement before the judge stating that she was 18 years old and contracted marriage with her freewill with Ali Azhar after embracing Islam. She confirmed that she was not abducted by anyone and that she wants to stay with her husband. After hearing both lawyers and Arzoo, the court gave orders for ossification test to determine Arzoo's age. November 9th, 2020 was fixed for the next hearing. In this hearing the ossification test report was submitted in the court, the report certified that Arzoo was 13 to 14 years old and not eighteen as stated by Arzoo. After getting the report the court declared her marriage invalid under the Sindh Child Marriage Restraint Act 2013. The court further directed the concerned police station to register a case against the abductor for soliciting marriage with a minor and to also include section 375 (rape) PPC in the FIR (first information report).



The court issued an order for the arrest of all the accused who were involved in this matter and fixed the case. Since Arzoo refused to go with her parents Court send her back to Dar-UI Aman and deputed a lady official from Home Department Government of Sindh who shall weekly visit Arzoo Raja to monitor her wellbeing, health and schooling while in the government shelter home.

7- Fact Finding Report on Yasir Masih Murder case

On October 28th, 2020 a Christian resident of Faisalabad Mukhtar Masih and Mussarat Bibi approached CLAAS office for legal assistance regarding the murder of their seventeen year old son Yasir. According to the aggrieved parents the accused party took advantage of their legal illiteracy and with the support from the police took Mukhtar Masih's thumb prints on a blank paper, later police printed a statement on that paper stating that Mukhtar Masih does not wish to pursue this matter; and without his knowledge police filed an FIR (first

information report) number 2/36 dated 17/09/20 under section 174 reporting it as an accidental death. Mukhtar Masih and his wife Mussarat bibi refuted this and insisted that the police register a criminal case under section 302 of Pakistan Penal Code (murder charges). When police refused to file a case they engaged a local lawyer to seek justice from the Court. Through this lawyer a petition under section 22-A, 22-B Criminal Penal Code for registration of a criminal case was filed in the court of Additional and Sessions Court Faisalabad.



The court dismissed the petition stating that the police have already done their proceeding under section 174 Cr.P.C (criminal penal code) and also that petitioner Mukhtar Masih gave a written statement that he does not want to pursue the death of his son. According to the FIR Yasir by mistake touched a heavy voltage electric wire and died instantly.



After not getting justice from the court the aggrieved family approached CLAAS. Before pursuing the case CLAAS legal team decided to visit Mehboob Town District Faisalabad to conduct a fact finding to collect facts and meet with all the parties involved. On Saturday October 31st, 2020 CLAAS fact finding team led by Mr. Sohail Habel, Mr. Aqeel Naveed and Ms. Sonia David visited the place of occurrence and met with the deceased's family. According to the parents their son was murdered by their neighbor Nazir Masih's sons Imtiaz and Shehzad

Masih. Few months back the boys got into a dispute when the deceased Yasir Masih forbade them to congregate in front of the convenient store adjacent to his home entrance. He found them doing drugs and harassing female customers who would come to the store, including his sister in-law. Later the dispute was settled through the mediation of some elders in the neighbourhood. On the day of the incident at about 4:30 pm Imtiaz and Shehzad sent a message for Yasir to come over to their house to help them with some construction work. An hour later a neighbour knocked at Yasir's house and informed his mother that her son had an accident, Mussarat ran out to see what had happened, she saw Adnan the building contractor who was working at Nazir Masih house was throwing unconscious Yasir on a pile of sand. While she was pleading for help, a paramedics rescue pulled up. They took the unconscious body of Yasir to the local hospital where he was declared dead. After the autopsy the body was buried. After the burial of their son the family decided to apprehend the culprits who were responsible for their son's death but to their dismay they were unable to find justice

Testimony of the local Residents

CLAAS team met with the local resident of Mehboob Town and asked them about the death of Yasir Masih. According to the neighbours the deceased and the accused had a brawl but later they became friendly. Many supported Mukhtar Masih's claim that Yasir was murdered. They also acknowledged the fact that the accused party was involved in drugs and illegal sale of alcohol in the neighbourhood



CLAAS team visited the accused party

According to Nazir Masih his sons never had a fight with Yasir infact they good family terms. He accused that Yasir was a drug addict, he would come to their house to do odd jobs for money to buy drugs. On the day of the incident he came to help his sons with some constrction work. He was fooling with the main electric wire passing through their open window. He touched a naked wire and as a result of heavy voltage died on the spot. He further accused that Mukhtar and his sons opened fire at his house to harras his family which he reported to the police.



CLAAS visited Nishatabad Police Station

After that CLAAS team went to Nishatabad Police Station to meet with the investigating officer. The team was told that police is waiting for the medical report of PFSA (Pakistan Forensic Science Authority) to determine the cause of death after which they will work on Mukhtar Masih's application for registration of a criminal case.

Team Observation

After collecting all the facts from different sources it was concluded that Mukhtar and his family needed all the support to bring justice to their son's untimely death.

8- Fact Finding Report of blasphemy case Vahari

Human Rights Commission of Pakistan requested CLAAS to take up a blasphemy case registered against Murtaza Ali, a 64 years old Sunni Muslim in Vahari. On November 12, 2020 CLAAS team went to Vahari to meet with the victim's daughter and to conduct a fact finding on this incident. Unfortunately team was unable to meet with the accused Murtaza Ali due to security reasons. According to the facts a blasphemy case under section 295C of PPC, FIR 342/ 2020 was registered against Murtaza Ali at police station City Vahari on September 3rd,



2020 on the complaint of Allah Ditta s/o Allah Yaar. The complainant blamed Murtaza Ali for printing a banner containing blasphemous material. The team met the accused's daughter Ghazala who narrated the facts that they were Sunni by sect. His father Murtaza Ali had friendly terms with the Shia community living in that area and would often call upon a Shia Imam of the local Jamia Masjid of Shia sect. According to his daughter her father would gift banners and flexes to Shia community containing religious quotes from Shia teaching, to be placed in the streets during the holy month of Muharram. He was doing this for the past 20 years. He did the same in 2020 and had some banners printed to be placed in the streets during Muharram. On September 3rd, 2020 (12th Muharram) at about 6: 30 PM some police officers from City Vahari Police station came to their house and arrested her father Murtaza Ali on the charges of blasphemy. After judicial remand he was sent to District Jail Vahari where the family had the opportunity to meet him. Ghazala said that her father shared that at the time of the police investigation 10 to 12 members from the complainant group were present; he apologized and tried to convince the accusers that he never thought of hurting anyone's religious sentiments. He also pleaded for forgiveness before the District Police Officer (DPO) Vahari in the presence of Peace Committee Vahari. Later on, Ghazala also submitted an application on behalf of his father Murtaza for the change of investigation and recording his statement for forgiveness. A local resident who was familiar with this matter shared with CLAAS team that there were two Shia groups and they had litigation with the local Imam Barga (Shia mosque cleric) with whom Murtaza was friendly with. They did not approve Murtaza's close involvement in the Bargah therefore they registered a blasphemy case against Murtaza Ali. His family hired a local lawyer to pursue the initial hearings. CLAAS also had a meeting with the lawyer Mr. Ahtisham who briefed the team that he had insisted upon the fact that the police did not investigate the matter properly and fairly. He said that as a result of police partiality to appease the accuser they registered a case under section 295C whereas there were no blasphemous wordings on the banner that was confiscated by the police as evidence. After fact finding visit CLAAS received a call from Murtaza's family requesting to take up the case as their local lawyer refused to pursue the case due to severe threats. CLAAS appointed its lawyer Mr. Akhtar Masih Sandhu to pursue the case. On December 8th, 2020 CLAAS filed the post arrest bail of Rana Murtaza Ali in the court of Sessions Judge Vehari. The bail petition was entrusted to Mr. Sayyed Jahanghir Ali Additional Sessions Judge Vehari. On December 12, 2020 CLAAS lawyer argued that our client was maliciously fabricated into this case, there was a delay of five days in lodging an FIR which proves that FIR has been registered after the deliberation and consultation. According to facts stated in the FIR offence under section 295- C does not attract, no recovery of any blasphemy material or Pena flex has been collected from the alleged accused. On December 16th, 2020 the court accepted the bail petition of Rana Murtaza Ali and gave orders to release him on furnishing bail bonds amounting 100000/-PKR.

9- Fact Finding Report of Blasphemy case in Narrowal

CLAAS was informed of a blasphemy accusation against three young Christians in a surrounding village in Narrowal City. On 30th December 2020 CLAAS conducted a fact finding mission to gather facts from the affected families, assess situation of the Christian community living in that area and to find out ways to assist the alleged victims. The incident took place in a village called Kotli Muhammad Sadique (6 kilometer from city Narrowal). There are about 40 Christian houses with one Church building belonging to United Presbyterian Church. Most of the Christian residents work on adjacent brick kilns. According to the villagers there had never been a religious inflicted incident in the past. On reaching the place of occurrence, CLAAS team met with the victim family of Irfan Saleem and Abbas Gulshan. Talking to the team Shahzad Masih, paternal uncle of Irfan and Abbas said that on 25th December after the Christmas mass the congregation took a small procession around the church which ended at 1:00pm. While they were still in the church premises they heard police vehicle sirens. Within minutes a large number of police officers gathered outside the church.

The District Police Officer (DPO) Hafiz Abdul Wahid was leading the police squad. Few local Muslims who were present outside the Church led the police officers to the trash pile. Police collected a pile of ashes and some burnt material.

Later Christians were informed by the DPO that the local Muslims have found the burnt pieces of blue box which was installed to collect pages containing Quranic verses near the Christian houses and the Muslims believe it was done intentionally to hurt their religious feelings. He inquired the Christians if they knew who burnt the box.

According to Shahzad during police questioning one of the local Christian resident; Illyas Masih told the police that early morning when he was leaving home, he saw few boys standing around the fire but he was unable to see their faces due to thick fog. After this police only stayed there for few more minutes and then left taking Ilyas Masih with them.



That afternoon after Muslim Friday prayer a large mob of surrounding Muslims villagers gathered in Kotli Muhammad Sadique, demanding immediate arrest of all Christians accused.

According to local Christians; as a result of police torture Illyas Masih admitted of seeing three Christians Azeem Mehmood, Abbas Gulshan and Irfan Saleem setting the fire. In the evening an FIR No. 259/20, under section 295 of the Pakistan Penal Code was filed at the Police Station Ahmedabad City Narrowal on the complaint of Mohammad Aslam. The same day police raided the houses of three accused. One of the accused Azeem Mehmood was arrested that night from his home and the next day 26th December 2020 after judicial remand he was sent to the Narrowal District Jail.



On 26th December 2020 the district Peace Committee Narrowal sat to discuss the situation. The Peace Committee asked the Christian community to surrender the other two accused to the police to keep peace and safeguard the entire Christian community in the village.

On 29th December 2020 the other two accused were also handed over to the police for investigation. On 30th December 2020 the two accused Irfan and Abbas were summoned before the judicial magistrate Narrowal for police remand, the magistrate instead of giving remand granted them bail on 30000 (thirty thousand) surety bounds.

CLAAS also met with the family of Azeem Mehmood the other accused who was arrested on 25th. His wife Mariam told the team that her husband was innocent; he could not have done anything like this. She said that he is in Pakistan Army and came home on holidays on 24th of December 2020 to celebrate Christmas with his family. She said that he never left the house on 24th or 25th. According to his brother Griffen, Azeem was nominated because of some previous dispute with Illyas Masih. The family has hired a local lawyer who has filed a post-arrest bail petition.

According to the FIR the complainant Muhammad Aslam s/o Muhammad Ashraf is a resident of Kotli Muhammad Sadique who along with other local Muslims installed blue plastic boxes around the village walls to collect any holy pages containing Quranic verses. In the FIR he claimed that in the presence of another witness Mohammad Harron had placed some holy pages in the blue box. On the morning of December 25th, 2020 while he was going to his field, he saw a pile of ashes in the corner of the lane, on closer examination he saw burnt pieces of blue plastic box. Meanwhile few other villagers Abrarn Hussain and Muhammad Azeem also gathered who informed him that they saw the three Christians Abbas Gulshan, Azeem Mehmood and Irfan Saleem setting the box on fire.

Team observations

- The fire was set near the houses of two nominated Irfan Saleem and Azeem Mehmood.
- There was no eye witness of this incident.
- No physical evidence was found of burnt pages of Quran.
- At present the FIR is filed under section 295 of PPC which is a bail able offence with fine and 2 year imprisonment. But at any point the police has the authority to add 295B (which has penalty of life imprisonment)

The DPO Hafiz Abdul Wahid and local Investigating Officer Hafiz Sajjid played an important role in keeping the situation under control and the community safe.

BENEFICIARIES OF FREE LEGAL AID & ASSISTANCE

Cases of Gender based violence

1- Anum Bibi vs The Station House Officer

A Christian women named Anum Anayat approached CLAAS to seek legal assistance to gain the custody of her minor son from her abusive husband. Narrating her story to the lawyer she said that she was married in 2017 and found out after marriage that her husband was a divorcee. In the first year of her marriage she gave birth to their son whom they named Joyle. Anum confirmed that she was not happy in her married relationship as her husband was not only an alcoholic but was also a wife beater.



She was occasionally beaten by her husband and his family.

Due to poverty of her own parents she was forced to stay in this abusive relationship.

While she was pregnant with their second child her husband after beating threw her out of the house. She had no other option but to go to her parents' house for shelter. With the mutual understanding of both families a patch up between husband and wife was initiated which resulted in sending pregnant

Anum back to her abusive and alcoholic husband. In the same turmoil she gave birth to a daughter and named her Jennifer. The birth of her daughter gave her little hope that her husband might mend his ways and give them the love and care they deserve but her hope to have a happy life was soon shattered when on January 3rd, 2020 her husband after snatching her two and half year old son threw her out of the house with her minor daughter. Once with her parents many attempts were made from her family and friends to recover her son from her husband. After five days of this incident on 8th January 2020 she approached CLAAS. Seeing the vulnerability of Anum, the next day a habeas corpus was filed in the Sessions Court Lahore. Entertaining the petition the Court gave orders for the recovery of the minor boy. On 14th January 2020 after proceeding Joyle was given in the custody of his mother. CLAAS successfully reunited the minor child with his mother.

2- Nadia Vs Nazir Akram

On 29 January 2020 Nadia wife of Nazir Akram age about 35 years old, resident of Gazi Road Lahore, approached CLAAS for legal assistance. She shared that after the death of her husband Hanif in 2010 she became a young widow and a single parent to a minor Alia. Few years later she met Nazir Akram whom she married in 2015. Few months after marriage, Nazir started beating Nadia over petty things. Since Nazir stopped working; Nadia took up a job as a housemaid. Nadia shared that her husband Nazir was always suspicious of her



character and had doubt on her fidelity. As she had no one to back her up she compromised with the situation and stayed with her abusive husband and in-laws till one year in the same house. When things got worse between her and her mother in law, Nadia insisted on moving to a separate house. On her assurance to take care of house rent and all other expenses, they moved into a separate house. Nadia worked hard to furnish her house with basic commodities. She bought different household items like fridge, television and washing machine on monthly credit but her husband instead of helping her pay the bills started taking the newly bought items to his mother's house. On Nadia's intervention he brutally beat her and little Alia. After this incident Nadia approached her brother, seeing her bruised face he brought Nadia to CLAAS for legal counseling. After the consent of Nadia on 12th February 2020 through CLAAS lawyer a petition was filed in the family court for dissolution of marriage. The court ordered to submit notices to her husband. The case is under proceedings.

3- Rabia Vs SHO

Rabia a 29 year old Christian resident of Youhanabad approached CLAAS office on February 26, 2020 for legal assistance for the custody of her infant daughter Emma from her abusive husband. According to the facts narrated by her, she got married to Aftab on November 14th, 2015. After five years of marriage God blessed them with a beautiful daughter whom they named Emma.



Rabia shared that during her five years of marriage she has not had a single when she was not beaten and verbally assaulted by her husband and his sisters. She further revealed that her husband who is a security guard at a local university is also a drug addict. After the birth of their daughter she found out that her husband was having an affair when she confronted him, he denied the allegations and instead beat her giving her bruises and marks on her face and body. He then snatched their infant daughter from her while she was nursing

and dragged her out of the house. She stood outside the house crying and begging her husband and in-laws to let her in but after several hours when no one opened the door for her she walked to her neighbours house and asked to use their phone to call her brother. At about midnight her brother came and found Rabia standing in the street, he also rang the doorbell for several minutes but after no response he brought his sister home. Rabia told CLAAS that her daughter was only four months old and she was nursing her. On February 27th, 2020 CLAAS lawyer filed a Habeas petition on behalf of Rabia for the recovery of her infant daughter in the court of Mr. Ijaz Ahmed Gondal – Additional and Sessions Judge Lahore. The Court issued notices to the concerned SHO (station house officer) for the production of minor in the court. On February 28, 2020 the concerned police official produced the child in the court, the Judge handed the custody of the infant Emma to her mother Rabia.

4- Saba Ashraf Vs Farooq Ahmed

On March 4th, 2020 Saba along with her elder sister Kiran approached CLAAS office for legal assistance. She shared that both her parents have passed away and she was living with her brother. On July 15th, 2012 her family arranged her marriage with Farooq Ahmed, who was a widower and 22 years older than Saba. Since she had no say in this arrangement she obliged as she was told. The first night she found out that her husband was impotent, she concealed this fact from her family. As time passed her husband's attitude toward Saba got



worse, he became more aggressive towards her. She was not allowed to meet her family nor visit their house. From the time she got married she lost contact with her family and friends. According to her she would have compromised with her situation but her husband was not only verbally abusive but also started physically beating her. Things got worse when he started detaining her without any food or water in a room and would lock the door from outside. This isolation made her mentally depressed. After 8 years of marriage, he allowed Saba to meet with her sisters. Saba went to her sister K house and disclosed the situation she was in. Her sister and other family members were unaware of her misery but now they all were ready to give her moral support. Her family support gave her the strength to file for divorce from her abusive husband. Saba further shared that during her eight years of marriage three times she tried for divorce but due to the threat of her husband she did not dare to seek this option. Through CLAAS a divorce was filed on March 9th, 2020 and the same was decided in her favor on September 17, 2020. On October 10, 2020 CLAAS lawyer filed a petition for registration of FIR in Sessions Court on behalf of Saba Ashraf against her husband who was threatening her for dire consequences, the court ordered to relevant police officials to submit the comments in court on October 17, 2020. On said date report of police officials has been submitted. The court disposed off the case in her favor.

5- Rubina vs Akram Masih alias Shan



On June 18, 2020 Rubina Bibi d/o Shoukat Masih resident of village Jumber Tehsil Chunia District Kasur approached CLAAS office for legal assistance for the recovery of her minor son aged 4 months old from her abusive husband. Her family arranged her marriage to Akram Masih in 2019. From the start of their marital relationship things were not okay. Akram's attitude towards his wife was very abusive towards her; he did not refrain from physically hurting her when she was pregnant with their first child. She bears all the torture thinking that he might change after the birth of their child. But nothing

changed and on June 14th 2020 her husband forcibly snatched the infant from her while she was nursing and dragged her out of the house. After hearing the story of Rubina Bibi CLAAS filed a petition under section 491 Criminal Procedure in tehsil Pattoki for the recovery of her minor son. The court issued a direction to the concerned police station to recover the minor but police was unable to recover the child as the father took the child to another place. After much search CLAAS legal team was able to find the location where Akram was hiding with the child. Through CLAAS another application was filed providing the court with the new address.

The learned Court again issued an order to the police officials in Saddar Pattoki for the recovery of the minor, this time the police informed the court that the new address does not come under the jurisdiction of police station issued the notice to recover the child. Eventually on June 26th, 2020 the minor was presented in the court and after listening to the CLAAS lawyer the child was given in the sole custody of his mother Rubina.

6- Jamila Bibi Vs Muhammad Idress



Jamila approached CLAAS to seek legal assistance to escape an abusive martial relationship. Her family arranged her marriage to Muhammad Idress, who was a widower with six children from his first wife. Jamila's parents are old and very poor; they work at brick kiln to earn their living. They got married on 23rd February 2020; she accepted her husband whole heartedly and made every effort to stay in that relationship. Her husband took advantage of her helplessness and started abusing her physically and mentally.

She was not allowed to see or talk to her family or leave the house without his permission. Jamila was totally cutoff from the entire world and even this did not satisfy him. According to Jamila, he had a short temper; one day he asked for water, Jamila was washing dishes and after finishing the dishes served him water he got very furious and to punish her gave her electric shock with naked electric wires. Luckily Jamila was able to run away and locked herself in the bathroom. After several hours she let herself out. She was traumatized after this incident. Then on July 10th, 2020 he again got upset over something Jamila did not do right and strike her with the kitchen knife, fortunately she only had a cut on her arm. After this she decided to escape from his house. She approached her parents and disclosed everything she had to face in her husband's house. With the support of her family she was able to approach CLAAS to file for divorce. On July 17th, 2020 CLAAS lawyer filed a suit for dissolution of marriage on behalf of Jamila Bibi in the Family court Kasur. Case is under proceeding for notices.

7- Sehrish Vs Khuram

Najam and Nasreen came to CLAAS with their daughter Sehrish to seek legal assistance after her husband threw her out of the house, keeping the minor children with him. According to the facts she lives in Bahar Colony, Lahore. Her parents arranged her marriage to Najam, who was a tailor master and had his own shop in Karachi. With the consent of both families they got married in 2012. Sehrish moved to a new city with dreams to live happily ever after. They were happy in their life and God blessed them with a daughter Shekinah and son Yeshva. Two years ago Sehrish found out that her husband was having an affair with another woman. She confronted him about this; he denied the allegations but continue to come home late and spend more time out. She tried to keep herself busy with kids but things got bad when he started hitting her on questioning about his whereabouts. On January 5th, 2020 they had a big fight after which her husband forced her out of the house keeping the children with him. She made several attempts to see her children but was unable to have access to her kids she came home to Lahore to her parents. On July 6th, 2020 they approached CLAAS for legal help. CLAAS para legal staff did some counseling with Sehrish. She remained determined to file for divorce. On August 15th, 2020 a divorce petition on behalf of Sehrish was filed, which was entrusted to Justice Abu Zafar, family court Lahore. One month later on 7th October 2020, Sehrish came with her parents, husband and children. She was happy and told her lawyer that her husband Khurram is sorry for what he did to her and has come to take her home. After the consent of Sehrish and her parents CLAAS withdrew her divorce petition.

8- Rehana Vs Sharafat

Rehana got married to Sharafat in 2010. After two years of their marriage they were blessed with a boy whom they named Samuel Sharafat. Since the birth of their son her husband has been in and out of her life. In 2013 she moved in with her parents. She took up a job as a maid in Pakistan Kidney and Liver Institute (PKLI) and was earning decent salary to take care of her son. Her husband only come to see them when he need money otherwise he has no connection with them. She said that she does not want to stay in a relationship which is not stable. Since her marriage she has been taking care of all her needs and her husband has never stepped up to fulfill his responsibilities neither as a husband nor as a father. On August 18th, 2020 CLAAS lawyer filed a suit for dissolution of marriage on behalf of Rehana in the family court Lahore.

9- Shehnaz Vs John

Shehnaz got married to John in 2004. They have no children together. According to Shehnaz since their marriage John never had a stable job. To maintain her home and other expenditures she got herself trained as a beautician, with this skill she was able to support her husband and herself. But despite this effort her husband never appreciated her and instead left no chance to degrade her in front of others. The couple tried medical option to have a child but none of the options were successful.



In 2018 Shehnaz found out that her husband was having affair with his brother's wife. When Shehnaz confronted him and threatened to disclose this to his brother he left home to live with his sister. She was left alone, seeing this, her older sister Rakhal told her to move in with her. On June 7th, 2020 Shehnaz left her house and moved in with her sister. After no response from her husband Shehnaz decided to take legal action against her husband. On July 29, 2020 she approached CLAAS office along with her sister Rakhal. Since the courts were closed due to COVID-19 Shehnaz was asked to come back. On August 18th, 2020 CLAAS lawyer filed a petition for dissolution of marriage on behalf of Shehnaz. Case is under proceeding for notices and expense of proclamation in the newspaper.

10- Akhtar Bibi Vs SHO



Akhtar Bibi (36) is a resident of Lahore. On August 24th, 2020 Akhtar approached CLAAS office along with her elder sister Kusar for legal assistance for the recovery of her four minor children from the custody of her husband Daniel. According to the facts narrated by Akhtar her husband was an abusive and alcoholic. Her husband was working in a school for special children and instead of spending money to take care of basic needs of his family he would spend the money on alcohol. She and her children were always deprived of basic necessities.

To provide food for her children Akhtar took up a job, working as a domestic servant. Her husband did not approve of her job and always suspected her of having an affair. On August 17th, 2020 after argument and severe fight her husband dragged her out of the house keeping the children. Several times Akhtar tried to meet her children but Daniel would not allow. She came back to her sister's house and approached CLAAS for help. On August 25th, 2020 through CLAAS a habeas corpus was filed on behalf of Akhtar Bibi for the recovery of her 4 children Suleman (11 years old), Binyameen (8 years old), Ayeemah (4 years old) and Ayan (3 years old) in the Sessions court, Lahore. The petition was fixed for hearing on the same day in the court of Justice Mansoor Ahmed Qureshi Additional Sessions Judge Lahore. The court issued notices to the concerned police station for the recovery of all four minors. Case was adjourned till August 26th, 2020. On the next hearing minors were recovered and produced in the court. The court handed over the custody of the minors to the mother, Akhtar Bibi. The mother and children were happy to be reunited and were very grateful to CLAAS for its efforts.

11- Zeenat Bibi Vs Mukhtar Masih

Zeenat fifty four year old and mother of five adult children approached CLAAS to seek legal assistance to file for divorce from her husband Mukhtar. Her daughter who was accompanying her told CLAAS para-legal staff that their father had never been there for them and both their parents had always been quarrelling. Zeenat said that she had tried every method to maintain peace with her husband but now she was fed up. Also her husband had a second marriage with Shabana in 2015.



After listening to Zeenat CLAAS lawyer advised her that according to Pakistan Christian Marriage Act her husband cannot have a second wife as Christian marriage is based on monogamous relationship. Further she was advised that besides filling for divorce, she also has the right to file a case against her husband for violating the sanctity of matrimonial law. Zeenat gave her consent to file divorce and harassment case. On August 26th, 2020 CLAAS filed a petition for Dissolution of marriage on behalf of Zeenat in the court of Mr. Ayaz Raffique family Judge Lahore. After one month of filing the case on September 30th, 2020 Zeenat informed CLAAS that a compromise has been initiated between the two parties and right now she does not wish to pursue her cases. CLAAS has stopped any legal proceedings in her case.

12- Zahida Bibi Vs Naeem Maih

Zahida's family arranged her marriage to Naeem who worked at a showroom that sells home goods on easy installment and was making decent money. They got married on 9th December 2007 and Zahida moved into her new home in Bhogiwal, Lahore. Naeem was addicted to alcohol, the fact that Zahida came to know after marriage. Often Naeem would come home drunk and wasted, on complaint he would beat Zahida. She got pregnant after five months of their marriage but her husband's cruel attitude towards her did not change.



One day he came home drunk and after minor argument severely beat Zahida. She got bruises on her body and face, she got scared as she was pregnant and to keep her unborn child safe she decided to move into her brother's house till her delivery. She gave birth to a baby boy whom she named Shane. Naeem was informed of his son's birth but neither him nor any of his family member came to see the new born baby. Her son Shane was born with a down syndrome. Zahida has devoted her life to raise her special child and she is very happy, her son is now twelve years old and with the support, love and affection of all his maternal uncles and aunt is very active. Zahida approached CLAAS on September 7th, 2020 to seek legal advice regarding her status with her husband. CLAAS legal advisor Ms. Ayesha Bhatti was appointed to provide assistance to Zahida. On September 9th, 2020 CLAAS filed a petition of dissolution of marriage on behalf of Zahida in Civil Court Lahore. The case was fixed in the court of Mrs. Sana Ehsan Ul Rehman Family Judge Lahore. Case is adjourned for further legal proceedings.

13- Rakhil Sadiq Vs Shoukat Masih



Rakhil who got married to Shoukat Masih in 2007 approached CLAAS in September 2020 to file for divorce. She has two children with Shoukat, seven year old Mary and 5 year old Isaac. Rakhil told her lawyer that he was very demeaning towards her and was also abusive, she said but the reason for her decision was the infidelity of her husband. Rakhil has the support of her family. On September 16, 2020 CLAAS lawyer filed a petition of dissolution of marriage on behalf of Rakhil Sadiq in the court of Senior Civil Judge, which was

fixed in the court of Mrs. Sana Ehsan Ul Rehman. Court ordered to submit notices to her husband. Case was adjourned till further proceeding.

14- Saira Ashraf Vs Ahsan Nazir

Saira Ashraf a resident of Attari Saroba, Lahore came to CLAAS on 28th September 2020 for legal help. She wanted to file a divorce from her husband. The facts that led to this decision was her husband's cruel and insensitive attitude towards her. According to Saira her father Muhammad Arshad is a poor labourer who works hard to fulfill basic needs of his family. Saira's first husband passed away due to cardiac arrest in the first year of their marriage, she became a widow at a very young age, somehow her family managed to



arrange her second marriage to Ahsan Nazir. With the consent of both families Saira and Ahsan got married on September 16th, 2017 and moved to Faisalabad. Soon enough she found out that her husband was a drug addict and also alcoholic. He would often beat her after getting drunk. He was unable to keep a consistent job and they were always short of money. There was no other help available; many times Saira had to beg money from her parents to buy food. Seeing this situation her parents asked them to move in with them in Lahore. Ahsan agreed to move to Lahore with his in-laws. The first few months passed quietly, Saira got pregnant but then her husband again started using drugs and stopped going to work. Saira gave birth to a daughter whom they named Rabia. In June 2019 after a fight with Saira; Ahsan left and went back to Faisalabad. He never called back to inquire about his wife or minor daughter. After the bad experience of her second marriage and with the support of her parents Saira decided to file for divorce from her husband and live as a single mother. On October 1, 2020 CLAAS lawyer filed a petition of dissolution of marriage on behalf of Saira Ashraf in the court of Senior Civil Judge, Lahore. The case is in proceeding.

CRIMINAL CASES

1- Sonia Riaz Vs Wajjid Gujjar (Forced Conversion and Forced Marriage)

Riaz Masih and his wife Musarat approached CLAAS on 29th January 2020 and requested for immediate intervention for the recovery of their daughter Sonia; who they believed was lured into marriage and conversion to Islam by their Muslim neighbour Wajjid Gujjar. They informed CLAAS that their daughter had been missing since December 11th, 2019, they gave an application in the Lytton Road police station against Wajjid for kidnapping their daughter Sonia Riaz.



Police took the application but did not take any action to recover the missing girl. The family tried other sources to locate her but all their efforts went in vain. After this incident Wajjid and his family locked and left their house. Riaz and his wife came to CLAAS after they received a call from their daughter who informed them that she was being held in a house against her will by Wajjid. The next day 30th January 2020, through CLAAS a habeas petition was filed in the Sessions Court Lahore for the recovery of Sonia. Entertaining this petition court order the Lytton Road police to recover the detainee and produce her in the court on the next hearing on 31 January 2020. On the next hearing January 31st, 2020 Sonia was produced in the court. Also present in the court was the abductor Wajjid with his counsel. CLAAS lawyer informed the court that Sonia was lured into conversion and then marriage with Wajjid who then detained her in a room where she was not allowed any outside contact. During this detention she repeatedly requested to see her parents. After listening to both the counsels the court asked Sonia whom she would like to go with, she told the court that she would like to go with her mother. After this, the petition was disposed-off. With the effort of CLAAS Riaz and his wife Musarat were able to take their daughter home. Later with the consent of Sonia a petition for the dissolution of her marriage was filed which is in proceeding.

2- Waseem Sunny Vs The state (Sawera murder case)

Salman, a grieved brother of young Christian girl Sawera approached CLAAS for legal assistance to seek justice for his sister whom he believed was killed by her husband and in-laws. According to the facts narrated by Salman, his sister was a teacher at a local Sunday school. Through their cousin Sohail and a local pastor Sawera was engaged to be married to Asif John, who was an IT officer in a private college in Lahore. During the six months they were engaged both families visited each other houses and participated in family functions.



Sawera and her family were happy with their new relatives. As arranged, Sawera got married to Asif on 28th December 2019. The next day Salman and his wife took breakfast for newly wed Sawera and her husband Asif. Upon arrival they were shocked to see an ambulance outside Asif's house. His sister was put in that ambulance, she was unconscious while Asif was conscious and was taking deep breath, and his clothes were dirty with vomit. On inquiry they were informed by Sawera's sister in law that Asif had a gas stove in his room and during night there was a gas leakage, due to inhalation of excessive gas both were found unconscious this morning. According to Salman he could not think straight and just rushed to the hospital. His sister was taken to Adil hospital, the doctors refused to attend to her as it was a police case; she was then taken to General Hospital, a government run hospital, where she was declared dead by the doctors. Asif was admitted in the Services hospital and was later discharged as his condition was stable. The hospital called the police who took her body to Mayo hospital for autopsy. On the same day on the complaint of Sawera's brother Salman a case under section 302/34 of Pakistan Penal Code was registered in police station Factory Area District Lahore against Sawera's husband Asif John. Salman also nominated Asif's mother Sara, his sister Sumaira and his brother Waseem for being accomplice in this murder. Police has not yet completed its investigation and none of the nominated have been arrested. CLAAS is pursuing this case.

3- Khuram etc Vs The state (Dispute)

Christian community of Batapur Lahore built a church on a Shamlat land (a piece of land given by State out of state land to the village community for common use purpose). Even before the construction of the church a Muslim resident Muhammad Nazam, whose wall was adjacent to the church wall tried to expropriate the land but due to intervention of Amanat Masih and his family Muhammad Nazam was unsuccessful. He then started throwing trash in front of the church to which Amanat forbade him to do.

Muhammad Nazam continued to invoke Amanat into fight over the church land. Amanat continued to resist any conflict with his Muslim neighbor. On 1st February, 2020 when Amanat Masih and his brother Arif Masih were out of town Muhammad Nazam and his Muslim friends first verbally assaulted Amanat's sons Khurram and Rustam later they physically beat both boys. After the quarrel; Khurram called his father to inform him of this incident. Amanat instructed him to go to the concerned police station and file a report.



The next day both boys went to the police station to file a complaint against Muhammad Nazam and his friends but police refused to cooperate with the victims. On 3rd February one of the Christian neighbor informed Amanat that Muhammad Nazam has registered a criminal case against Amanat, his two sons khurram, Rustam and his brother Arif Masih.

An FIR (first information report) No.135/20, was registered under section 452/337F/337L/147 and 149 of the Pakistan Penal Code in Bata Pur Police station District Lahore, allegedly accusing Amanat and his sons for trespassing into Muhammad Nazam's house with fire arms with the intentions of killing him. To prove his claim Muhammad Nazam made self-inflicted wounds on his body and with the support of the police got his medical done certifying the injuries. Amanat and his brother and his sons managed to escape the police who raided their house to make an arrest. On 4th February 2020 with the help of their relatives in Lahore they managed to approach CLAAS office for legal assistance in this fabricated criminal case. After listening to their story CLAAS deputed a lawyer to file their pre-arrest bail. On 6th February 2020 all four nominated accused were granted pre-arrest bail by the Sessions Court Lahore. On 20th February 2020, CLAAS lawyer filed a petition for the registration of a cross version on behalf of aggrieved Khuram Shahzad and his brother Rustam as they were the actual victims of Muhammad Nazam's brutality. This petition was duly fixed before the court of Mr. Tariq Mehmood Shad, learned Additional and Sessions Judge Lahore. After listening to the CLAAS lawyer who narrated the incident that took place on 1st February resulting in both boys getting injured; the court gave orders to the concerned police station to register a case against Muhammad Nazam and his companions and also ordered a medical of the two brothers. Through the court orders CLAAS was able to register a case against the culprit. On a later date CLAAS is contesting the cancellation of pre-arrest bails of the perpetrators.

4- Fouzia Vs SHO (Forced Conversion)

Fouzia and Haroon approached CLAAS after their minor daughter Mehwish went missing on February 10th, 2020. They informed CLAAS that they have three children Hanook (15), Mehwish (13) and Zerish (11), they were all school going children. Both parents work in a local textile factory and come home very late. On the day of the incident their daughter Mehwish who was a student of 8th grade, left home to go to academy (a private tuition center) but never came back home. When both husband and wife came back from work they found out that Mehwish was missing, their first point of contact was academy. They were told by the academy workers that she did not come to the academy that day. After this they called all their relatives to see if she has gone to any of their house. Late at night they found out that one of her fellow student saw Mehwish leaving with one of their Muslim neighbor named Sajjid. The next day they approached the local police station and asked the concerned police officer to register an abduction case against Sajjid. The police asked them to come back later, when they again went to the police station, they were told by the same police officer that a case cannot be registered but police will investigate the matter. Both aggrieved parents came home heavy hearted. One of their relative told them about CLAAS. On 12th February 2020 they approached CLAAS to provide them legal assistance for the registration of a case against the culprits. The next day CLAAS filed a habeas corpus petition in the Lahore High Court, on behalf of Mehwish's mother Fouzia for the recovery of their daughter and for the registration of a criminal case against the culprits. The Court issued a notice to the concerned SHO (station house officer) to recover the girl and present her before the court on February 14th, 2020. On the date of the Court hearing the police officials appeared before the court and informed that an FIR has been registered against the accused and police has arrested the two of them but Mehwish was not recovered from any of the arrestees. On these comments the learned Court disposed-off the petition. CLAAS was successful in registering a case against the perpetrators.

5- Muhammad Asif Vs The state (Sexual Assault)

Nirma w/o Sajan aged 20 residents of Gohar Mandi, District Nankana Sahib – Lahore approached CLAAS for legal assistance. In 2017 Nirma got married to her cousin Sajan with the consent of their families and moved into a joint family system. Gohar Mandi is a backward village; there are no proper basic facilities. Her husband Sajan is a farmer by profession, while he ploughs his fields; Nirma stayed at home. The couple was blessed with a son.

When Nirma was eight months pregnant with their second child, on 8th February 2020 while she was taking a bath their Muslim neighbor Muhammad Asif forced himself into the bathroom and attempted to rape Nirma. On her hue and cry her brother-in-laws Riaz Masih and Manzoor Masih came to her aid. On seeing them Muhammad Asif managed to run away, as a result of his manhandling Nirma fainted. Her relatives called a local doctor for immediate medical treatment.



When her husband came back from work Nirma and the other male witnesses informed him of this incident. He got furious and took some of his male relatives to confront Muhammad Asif, when they came to his house; they found out that he has already fled from his house. The next day Sajan took Nirma to the local police station Faizabad, District Nankana Sahib and was able to register an FIR 63/20 under section 376/511 (attempted rape) of Pakistan Penal Code. After the registration of the case Muhammad Asif through his family members tried to force Sajan (Nirma's Husband) for compromise, which he refused. The offender then tried to file for his pre-arrest bail which was contested by CLAAS and his bail was denied. He was arrested and put behind bars. The case is still in trial.

6- Azra Vs Shelter home in-charge Okara (Rebecca conversion case)



On February 26, 2020 Azra wife of Mansha Masih, a resident of Galaxo Town - Lahore approached CLAAS office for legal assistance for the recovery of her 24 year old daughter Rebecca from Okara Dar Ul Aman (a government run shelter home). According to the fact narrated by Azra her daughter became friends on Facebook with a Muslim boy named Inzamam Ul Haq. He was from outside Lahore but was working in a factory near Galaxo. On 19th February Rebecca went missing, the family looked for her at every possible place but were unable to find her.

The next day they approached Nishtar police station and filed an FIR No: 675/20 under section 365B (Kidnapping or abducting in order to subject person to unnatural lust) of Pakistan Penal Code on the complaint of Azra's son Atif Masih. No one was nominated in the FIR as the family was unaware of Rebecca's friendship with Inzamam Ul Haq. Later they found out about this through Rebecca's Muslim friend Saba, who confided to Azra that Rebecca was taken to Okara by Inzamam. Hearing this Azra and her family approached police and insisted to interrogate Inzamam. When police brought him in for questioning he admitted taking Rebecca to his home in Okara, he insisted that she went with him with her freewill. Police kept him for further questioning. He bribed police to inform his mother, who was harboring Rebecca. When his mother came to know that Rebecca's family has managed to file a criminal case against her son, she immediately consulted a lawyer. He gave an application on behalf of Rebecca in the court of Mian Muhammad Sindhu, Judicial Magistrate - Renala Khurd, District Okara asking for protection from her Christian parents on the grounds that since she has embraced Islam with her freewill which has enraged her parents and family and now she fear life threats from them. The concerned Judge sent her to "Dar Ul Aman" (a government run shelter for women) in Okara for her safety. On her statement in the court that she was not kidnapped but left home with her free will, police released Inzamam Ul Haq. Later Azra tried to meet daughter in Dar-UI Aman but was given access without court orders. The family then approached CLAAS for legal assistance in getting orders to meet their daughter. Through CLAAS on February 27th 2020 moved an application on behalf of Azra Bibi mother of Rebecca; in the court of Mian Muhammad Hassan Sandhu Judicial Magistrate Renala Khurd District Okara for the permission to meet her daughter in Dar-UI-Aman. The Court instructed the In-charge Dar-ul-Aman to conduct this meeting. After the court order Azra along with CLAAS lawyer and Legal department staff met Rebecca. Azra tried to convince Rebecca that she must not fear her family; they all want her to come back. She assured her that Rebecca can practice her new religion Islam but Rebecca bluntly refused to go back and insisted on staying in Dar-UI-Aman. No further action was taken in this case.

7- Amir Sindhu Vs Lesco (Kinza Sandhu)

On January 24th, 2020 Zarina and her husband Amir Sandhu approached CLAAS to seek legal aid in a matter concerning their minor daughter Kinza. In August 2019 Amir Sandhu 42 years old and Zarina 41 years old, bought a house in Juroo village, near Green Town – Lahore from Muhammad Arshad. Two months after the purchase they moved into their new house with their 6 children. Anum (15yrs old), Kinza (11yrs old), Shahzeb (10yrs old), Marriam (9yrs old), Saira (4yrs old) and Aiza (2yrs old).

Although their house was in a remote areas and there were not too many houses around their house but the family was happy as they were the owners of this house. The previous owner Muhammad Arshad visited their family twice along with his wife and children. And the third time he came with a male friend on November 14, 2019 around 6:00 am while Zarina and Amir Sandhu were not at home and their children were sleeping. When Muhammad Arshad knocked at the door Kinza opened the door,



she was familiar with Muhammad Arshad therefore did not hesitated in letting him know that they were home alone. Hearing this he along with his male friend forced into the house and locked the house from inside. While his friend guarded the main door entrance, he took Kinza into an empty room and attempted to rape her, just then Nazir Ahmed, an electrician, knocked at the door. It baffled him and at that instant both men ran out and climbing through the roof managed to escape. Using electrician's phone Kinza called her parents and informed them about this incident. Zarina and her husband immediately came back. The day on November 15, 2019 Amir got an FIR No. 2391/19 registered against Muhammad Arshad under section 376 and 511B (attempted rape) of Pakistan Penal Code in police station Raiwind City District Lahore. When Muhammad Arshad heard that Amir and Zarina have registered a case against him he became furious and with the support of his friend broke their electricity meter.

8- Asia Bibi VS SHO (Anita abduction, forced conversion & marriage)



Warris Masih and Asia Bibi approached CLAAS on March 11th, 2020 for legal counseling. They are poor Christian family settled in small village called Jallo near Lahore. Both husband and wife worked Warriar works in a local factory as a cleaner. Both their younger children Sam 14 years old and Anita 16 years old were school going where as their older son Waqqas 18 years old was working in a factory as well. One day Anita complained to her family about a Muslim man named Nasir who was harassing her on her way to school.

The next day her brother Waqqas went with her to see the guy harassing his sister. He found out that the alleged pervert was working at a corner convenient store as a loader. Waqqas and his father Warris went to the convenient store owner and complained about Nasir, who promised to care of this. For the next few days Nasir stopped following Anita but then he started to physically harass her and would often block her way. Anita got worried and she stopped going to school. After this when her parents would go to work Nasir would knock at their door and at time attempted to break into their house. Once time he brought his friends who shot fire in the air to intimidate Anita and her family. Waqqas who was home called police helpline number and informed them about the firing, when police arrived the culprits ran away.

On February 14th, 2020 at about 8am Anita went to the convenient store to buy eggs for breakfast but never came back home. The family started looking for her with their relatives, during their search they found out that one of their neighbor saw her going with Nasir. Warris Masih and his son Waqqas got Nasir's address from his employer and went to his house. His father was home who told them that he had not been home or the past three months. The next day February 15th, 2020 they approached the local police station and



registered an FIR No. 190/20 under section 365B (kidnapping with the intent to confine person) of Pakistan Penal Code in police station Manawa District Lahore against Nasir Ali. The police told them they will investigate the matter. After a whole month elapsed no one was arrested and their daughter was still missing. When Warris Masih insisted the police why they were not arresting Nasir they were informed by the police that their daughter is now married to Nasir and he has submitted their marriage certificate along with conversion certificate of Anita to Islam therefore police will not pursue this matter any further. Hearing this Warris and his family approached CLAAS for the recovery of their daughter. On March 12, 2020 CLAAS Lawyer filed a Habeas Corpus Petition in Lahore High Court for Anita's recovery. After the filing of the petition Warris told CLAAS that their village council has taken up the matter and has promised the family that their daughters will be returned; as long as they don't proceed with the legal case. On the instruction of Anita's family CLAAS stopped its legal proceedings in this case.

9- Rehmat Masih Vs IG Police Punjab etc

(Sangeeta and Reeta abduction and forced conversion)

On March 13th, 2020 Rehmat Masih resident of Mozang Lahore came to CLAAS to seek legal assistance to recover his two daughters Reeta age 17 years old and Sangeeta age 16 years old from illegal confinement of Farhan Hussain. According to the facts narrated by Rehmat, he works as a watchman at a local residence of a wealthy businessman. His wife Asma and two older daughters Reeta and Sangeeta were also employed in the same house as maids. On February 25th 2020 both his daughters went missing.



During search he found out that his daughters were last seen with one of his Muslim neighbour Farhan whom he believed lured his daughters to go with him. Farhan Hussain was from another city Rahim Yar Khan but was living and working in Lahore. On February 28, 2020 two days after girls went missing Rehmat Masih father of Reeta and Sangeeta registered an FIR No. 104/20 under section 365B (kidnapping with the intention of confinement) of Pakistan Penal Code against Farhan at Civil Lines police station Lahore. He was later informed by the police that during their investigation they have found out that the accused Farhan was legally married to Sangeeta who also converted to Islam. On March 17, 2020 a writ petition under Article 199 of constitution of Pakistan has been filed in the Lahore High Court, for the recovery of Rehmat Masih's daughters. On the same day the Honorable Judge Mr. Justice Muhammad Anwar Ul Haq Panu issued notice to the Station House Officer of Civil Lines police station for the recovery of the alleged detainee and fixed the petition for March 20, 2020. Due to Covid-19 Case is still pending. CLAAS will continue to provide legal assistance in this case.

10- Muhammad Altaf etc Vs The state (Saleem murdered) Masih



CLAAS came to know about an incident of religious persecution in which 22 years old Christian boy Saleem was brutally murdered by local Muslim landlord for taking a bath in his water reservoir. Before any intervention CLAAS wanted to attain actual facts of the case and assess the need of any legal assistance needed by the victim family. On March 3rd, 2020 CLAAS legal team advocate Mr. Akhtar Masih Sindhu, Mr. Paras Abdoon and Ms. Iram Fahiha

went to village Bhagiya District - Kasuar for a fact finding of Saleem Masih murder case. The team first met with the deceased's family. Ghafoor Masih (father of Saleem Masih) told the team that his son refused to work for the local Muslim land owner; this refusal offended the landowner and in his rage he murdered his son. According to the facts; Saleem labored in the city. On the day of the incident 26th February 2020 at about 5:30 am Saleem was coming home after work, instead of walking straight home he stopped at the water reservoir and took a bath. This reservoir was owned by the same Muslim Land owner Saleem refused to work for. His servants, who were working in the field, saw Saleem taking bath in the reservoir and immediately informed the Land owner; who approached the site and after severely beating Saleem dragged him to his Dera (a walled place where cattle's are kept) where he chained him and beat him with iron rods and sticks. After two hours, a fellow villager informed Saleem's family that he was being beaten by the landlord at his Dera. When Ghafoor and his sons arrived at the Dera they saw police was also present. The family was told by the police that Saleem was caught stealing crops from the fields and that was why the landlord's servant brought him at the Dera to investigate. Saleem was unconscious and his whole body was bruised and swollen, police told the family to take him to the hospital. Ghafoor and his sons took lifeless Saleem to the local village hospital, after an hour the doctors discharged him and told the family to take him to Lahore. The family had no option but to bring him to General Hospital Lahore. The doctors at General hospital told the family that Saleem had serious internal injuries; both his kidneys were damaged including his internal organs. Due to heavy internal bleeding his survival was doubtful. The doctors were right, after two days on 28th February 2020 Saleem died in the hospital. After the burial of his son, Ghafoor Masih who was convinced that his son was being murdered; registered an FIR No. 161/2020 under section 302 /342/ 337 A (i) /337F (i) /147/ 149 in Police station Allah Abad District Kasur against the four Muslims who were involved in killing his son:

Muhammad Mushtaq, Muhammad Altaf, Ali Shahzad and Muhammad Razaq. After the registration of the case all four accused filed for pre-arrest bails CLAAS lawyer was present in the court to contest their bails but the court adjourned the hearing stating that the police is still investigating in this case, proceedings will resume after completion of police investigation. Police in its investigation declared Muhammad Mushtaq and Ali Shahzad innocent. The remaining two again filed their pre arrest bails, which was fixed for March 30th 2020. The complainant Ghafoor Masih appeared in the court and stated that he has forgiven the accused and does not wish to pursue the case. CLAAS was informed that deceased's family did a settlement with the accused.

11- Abdul Rehman Vs The state Gulfam Sodomy case

CLAAS was approached by Dill Khurram resident of a small village in district Sheikupura to seek legal assistance for his younger brother Gulfam Masih, who was a victim of gang rape.

According to the facts this family belongs to a poor class who take up odd labour jobs to fulfill their basic needs. On May 28th 2020 at about 5pm Gulfam Masih (14 years old) went out to buy some water melons,



when he did not come back for several hours, his older brother Dill Khurram along with his cousin Ijaz Masih went in search of him. They found him unconscious lying on the side of the road. He was injured and half naked, he also had bite marks on his face. Dill Khurram took his brother home where he was provided medical treatment. After Gulfam got better he told his family that when he was coming back home, he was stopped by four men, Muhammad Ali, Abdul Rehman, Faisal and one unknown. One who had gun guarded, one made video, while the other two forcibly took him in the fields and both committed sodomy with him. Dill Khurram took his injured brother to the police station and insisted on registering a case against the culprits. Bhikhi District Sheikupura police did register an FIR No. 352/20 under section 377 (gang rape) of Pakistan Penal Code against Muhammad Ali, Faisal Fiaz and Abdul Rehman. After the back up of CLAAS police brought in Faisal and others for questioning but no one was held in the police lockup. On June 15th CLAAS lawyer went to Sheikupura to contest the pre-arrest bail of nominated accused. Their bail application was dismissed and the concerned police station officials stated in the court that their investigation is not yet completed as they are awaiting the DNA report from medical examiner and that is why no arrest was initiated. CLAAS continue to pursue this case.

12-Muhammad Shoaib Vs The state (Nadia attempted to rape)



Boota Masih is a resident of Village Talwandi in District Kasur. His wife Bilques died four years ago leaving five children, three daughters and two sons, the oldest Elisha is 13 years old, Sadia is 12 years old, Adil is 9 years old, Nadia is 7 years old and the youngest Badal is 6 years old. Boota is a poor labourer and does odd jobs to get money to buy food and other basic items for his children. On April 11th 2020 at about 6pm his daughter Nadia went to her grandmother's house which was on the walking distance from their house.

Their neighbour Muhammad Sohaib followed her, finding her alone he grabbed her and took her to nearby fields; Nadia started crying and shouted for help. Imran Younis, Ghulam Sabir and Yaft Masih were working in the fields; they heard the shouts and ran to help the crying child, when they arrived at the spot they saw half naked Nadia lying on the ground the perpetrator Muhammad Sohaib ran away. They brought Nadia home. The next day April 12th, 2020 Nadia's father Boota Masih took her to the police station and managed to register an FIR No. 299/20 under section 376/511 (attempted rape) of Pakistan Penal Code in police station Allahabad Tehsil Chunia, District Kasur – against Muhammad Sohaib. After the registration of the case police arrested the accused and after investigation he was sent to District jail Kasur. Boota did not have enough means to engage a lawyer, through his pastor Mukhtar Ghulam, he approached CLAAS for legal aid to fight for justice for his minor daughter Nadia. CLAAS took up the case and appointed its lawyer to pursue this case in court.

13- Sooba etc Vs The state (Boota murdered)

A young Christian man Boota Masih along with his wife Zubida and four children was working at the brick kiln owned by Zulfiqar Mansha situated near village Harchoki, District Kasur. For construction police blocked the main road for general traffic. Muhammad Abid, Muhammad Tufail, Muhammad Sooba and Muhammad Zubair had a horse cart carrying food for their cattels used to pass through that main road to get to their fields but now with the road being blocked they started using the private road to Zulfiqar Mansha's brick kiln entrance. Boota who was always working there when Muhammad Abid and his brothers would pass through that entrance, Boota forbade them from using this private road but they continue to trespass. Boota then informed Zulfiqar who put obstruction blocks to stop their trespassing. The trespassers were annoyed with Boota for informing his owner. On March 29, 2020 at about 12pm Boota Masih was present in the office of his employer to take his wages; when the four trespassers Muhammad Abid, Muhammad Tufail, Muhammad Sooba and Muhammad Zubair barged into Zulfiqar's office and started throwing and breaking things. After vandalizing the office they attacked the brick kiln owner Zulfiqar and started hitting him with the batons, Boota who was present in the office stepped in front of his employer to defend him. All four assailants attacked Boota with their batons, meanwhile the owner called the police for help. When the police arrived Boota was badly injured. He was taken to Tehsil Head quarter hospital Chuniya in unconscious condition, where he did not survived and died due to severe injuries on his head.

On March 29, 2020 Zubaida Bibi widow of Boota Masih gave an application against all four culprits for the murder of her husband. On this application FIR No. 255/20 dated March 29, 2020 under section 302/34 (first degree murder) of Pakistan Penal Code was registered in police station City Chuniya. After the registration of the case police arrested Muhammad Abid and Muhammad Tufail. The other two accused Muhammad Zubair and Muhammad Sooba filed for pre-arrest bail and they were granted bail.



CLAAS team Mr. Akhtar Masih Sandhu Advocate and Mr. Paras Abdoon visited the place of occurrence and met with the deceased's family. His wife Zubaida Bibi his two daughters and two sons were present at the brick kiln in their living quarter. CLAAS team also visited the police station, City Chuniya along with the complainant Zubaida Bibi and met with the Investigation officer of the case. CLAAS is providing legal assistance in this case.

14- Kaneez Fatima Vs The state

On June 27th, 2020 a tense situation was created in the residential area of Awami Colony Lahore, when a blasphemy a woman name Kaneez Fatima was alleged of committing blasphemy. Despite the COVID lockdown a large mob gathered around the alleged accused house. The initial announcement made from the local mosque proclaimed the accused as a Christian woman committing blasphemy. The mob was chanting slogans against Christians and according to the local residents there was chance of mob attack on Christian houses. Police arrived on time to save the accused and the entire Christian community living there. The police took the accused Kaneez Fatima into its custody. To calm the crowd police registered an FIR No. 1811/20 under 295B (defiling of Holy Quran) of Pakistan Penal Code at Kot Lakhpat police station - Lahore against Kaneez Fatima on the complaint of Sumaira wife of Muhammad Saleem. According to the facts collected from the local residents of Awami Colony (where the incident took place) Yasmin Shagufta was born into a Christian family but few years back she embraced Islam and her new Muslim name was Kaneez Fatima. She worked as a domestic servant in various houses including the complainant's house.

After embracing Islam she disconnected herself from her Christian family and community and was living separately.

The Facts Stated in FIR (first information report):

The complaint Sumaira Bibi wife of Muhammad Saleem stated that on 27th June 2020 at about 2:30pm she went to Kaneez Fatima's house, when she entered into her bedroom she saw torn pages of Holy Quran scattered on Kaneez Fatima's bed, there were three books of Holy Quran lying on the bed and Holy pages were dipped into water.

Upon asking Kaneez told Sumaira that she has backache and someone told her to sleep on the pages of Holy Quran and she will be healed of her backache. Sumaira collected some torn pages of Holy Quran and came back home and narrated the whole incident to her husband who informed the other residents and followers of Islam as to apprehend the blasphemer.

Present Situation:

After the registration of the FIR the local situation in Awami Colony remained calm and no unpleasant incident took place. After the judicial remand Kaneez Fatima was sent to jail. At present she is confined in Kot Lakhpat Jail Lahore. Due to COVID restrictions CLAAS lawyer was unable to meet with her in the jail but a power of attorney of CLAAS lawyer was dropped in for Kaneez Fatima to sign. Once the hearing begins CLAAS will pursue this case in the court.

15- Kamran Masih Vs DPO Sheikhpura Etc (Dispute)

On 2nd July 2020 CLAAS team headed by Mr. Tahir Bashir Advocate visited district Sheikhpura for a fact finding of a dispute between Christians and Muslims residents of Rana Town, sheikhpura. According to the facts collected by the team on 31st May 2020 Kamran Masih was sitting in his tailor shop located on the main road of Rana Town when a motorcyclist Muhammad Ashfaq son of Muhammad Shakoor came with high speed hitting a young child Irfan Ali son of Rashid Ali. Kamran saw the accident and rushed out to help the child. When Kamran approached the motorcyclist he tried to hit Kamran as well, which made Kamran upset as he was trying to counsel him. After this Kamran and Muhammad Ashfiq had an exchange of foul words, the arguments broke into a physical fight. Muhammad Ashfiq then called his friends to aid him. His friends Usman, Hamza Shakoor, Mubasher Watto came equipped with batons and a pistol. They took on Kamran while they were beating him someone from the crowd informed Kamran's father Samuel Masih and brother Nabeel Masih who came rushing to the site. Thinking that they have come to aid Kamran they attacked them as well and broke Kamran's fingers and injured his brother on the head and shoulder.



Kamran and his brother went to the police station to register an FIR but police who was supporting the opponent party; refused to file a complaint. Instead the culprits with the accomplice of police filed an FIR against Kamran, his brothers and father accusing them of attacking them with knife, scissors and other sharp objects. Kamran and his family were the victims but due to bigotry and corruption were now hiding as culprits. The family then approached CLAAS for legal help.

CLAAS team went to Sheikhpura and visited the place of occurrence and also submitted a petition in the Sheikhpura Court for the registration of an FIR against the actual culprits, CLAAS lawyer further pleaded the court to record Kamran and his brother's version/statement of the incident as well and make it a part of the police file. The Court gave orders to the concerned Station House Officer to record the statement of Kamran and others involved. The police complied with the court orders and recorded Kamran and Nabeel's statement but later discarded that statement without the knowledge of CLAAS or its client. Now CLAAS will proceed with the trial of this case when it is fixed.

16- Safdar Vs The state (Abida Ashraf Abduction case)

Sixteen year old Abida resident of Sheikhpura went missing from her home in a broad daylight. According to the facts narrated by her mother Haseena Bibi, they are very poor, her husband Muhammad Ashraf is a labourer and she works as a house maid to put food on the table for their six children (4 daughters and 2 boys). Few months before two adult men Amir Ansari and Safdar Ali rented a room in their neighborhood. Both men were often seen stalking young girls; many of the neighbours have already complained about them to their landlord.



On the day of the incident March 15th 2020 both husband and wife went to work as usual, no one was home except their daughter Abida. When they came back home Abida was not home.

Thinking that she might have went to the market they did not get worried but as it started getting late and dark they got worried and started to look for her. One of the neighbour Baba Muhammad Ali told them that he saw Amir Ansari and Safdar Ali took Abida on their bike. After this information the distressed family immediately went to the police station Bikhi District Sheikhpura and submitted an application against the accused Amir and Safdar. On March 18th, 2020 the concerned police registered an FIR No: 195/20 under section 365/B (kidnapping with the intention of abusing the detainee for lust) against the two culprits. After the registration of an FIR, the accused Safdar Ali moved his pre-arrest bail which was adjourned due to COVID lockdown. Haseena approached CLAAS for legal assistance. Upon her request CLAAS appointed its legal advisor Mr. Tahir Bashir Advocate for court proceeding and on 10th July 2020 CLAAS lawyer went to Sheikhpura and procured the copy of bail petition of the accused from the concerned court and bare reading of the petition it transpired that the accused did not join the investigation and failed to prove his innocence before the investigation officer even he did not produce any legal documents before the court to prove his marriage with Abida. CLAAS is pursuing this case to seek justice for Abida who is still missing.

17- Sana Nazir Vs The state (Freewill Marriage)

Thirty three year old Yasin Masih is a resident of Youhanabad, Lahore. He work as a waiter in a marriage banquet hall in Youhanabad. He has four children Rani (12 years old), Raja (8 years old), Muskan (6 years old) and Muqadas 1 one and half years old with his wife Sana Nazir. They were a happy couple enjoying their family life and never had a quarrel. To share financial burden of her husband Sana decided to take up a job. She started working in a factory near Gajjumatta since 2019.



At first everything was fine but after few months of her at work she started coming home late, on questioning she told her husband that she was picking up overtime to make some extra money. Her husband was satisfied and never objected to her coming home late. On August 13th, 2020 Sana went to work at 8.00 am as usual but till 8:30 pm did not return home. Her husband got worried and decided to go to her factory to search. At about 10.30 PM Yasin went to Sana's factory, he was informed by the owner of the factory that today Sana did not come to work. After that Yasin went to Sana's parent's house but she was not there either. For four days Yasin kept looking for his wife but then on August 18th, 2020 he eventually registered an FIR No. 3166/20 under section 365 B (kidnapping) of Pakistan Penal Code against unknown person at Nishtar police station Lahore. The next day August 19th 2020 he approached CLAAS for legal assistance. CLAAS probed into the matter and after investigation found out his wife Sana has embraced Islam and was now married to Muhammad Shabbir.

18- Ayesha Bibi Vs Yasin (freewill marriage)



Ayesha was born in a Christian family; her Christian name was Shumaila Riaz. Her father Riaz Masih was a bricklayer who worked hard to put food on the table for his family. When she was 18years old she became friends with a Muslim grocery vendor named Yasin. He was already married with four children. Ayesha was aware of this fact but wanted to get married to him. She was already pregnant with his child and was unable to conceal this from her family therefore; on March 31st, 2012 she left her father's house to be with Yasin.

She converted to Islam as this was a condition set forth by Yasin to marry her; she was given an Islamic name "Ayesha". After her conversion to Islam they got married. Yasin rented a separate house for her. On June 26, 2012 Ayesha gave birth to a boy whom they named Shauban. Things were not the same between Yasin and Ayesha, he would stay away for months while Ayesha was left alone with little Shauban. When she would complain about about Yasin's absence he would beat her. The physical abuse became a routine. Ayesha left her family to be with Yasin and now with no family to back her up she felt alone. For the sake of her son she managed to survive in that abusive relationship for eight years but then things got worse and she decided to approach her family. Her father took her back and with their moral support she was able to approach CLAAS to file for divorce from her husband. On September 16th, 2020 CLAAS lawyer filed a petition of Dissolution of marriage in the court of Senior Civil Judge Lahore, which was fixed in the court of Mrs. Asma Falak Rana Family Judge Lahore. Court ordered to submit the notices to her husband. The case is in trial.

19- Razia Bibi Vs SHO (Bounded laborer)

September 18th, 2020 Razia Emanul 55 year old widow accompanied by her 4 unmarried sons and 1 daughter approached CLAAS to seek legal assistance against harassment and forced labor of their employers. According to the facts Razia and her sons all work on the agricultural land of Bilal Jutt and his cousins in Faisalabad. In return for their labour they were given accommodation on the same land and a minimum wage. The family was happy to be able to work but then things started getting ugly when their employers started taking



forced labour at odd times and without any compensation. When the family asked for their labour money, the land owners through their servants would physically beat them. Razia told CLAAS that after they slaved in the crop fields the land owners would lock them in their house at night and will only open the lock to bring them out for work in the morning. The victim family was scared to approach the local police as their employers were politically influential and had the backup from the local police. On September 18, 2020 the family got a chance to escape from the illegal confinement of their employer, they wasted no time and came straight to Lahore at Internal Life Ministry Church, who referred them to CLAAS. After listening to their story on September 21st, 2020 CLAAS filed a writ petition in the Lahore High Court on behalf of Razia Bibi. Through this petition the learned court was informed of the illegal confinement, forced labour and inhumane treatment which Razia and her family were subjected to by Bilal Jutt and his cousins. The lawyer requested the Court to issue directions to the Station House Officer of Nishatabad police station to provide protection to the aggrieved family from the illegal harassment of the influential landowners. On September 22nd, 2020 the Honorable Judge issued directions to the SHO to probe into this matter and ensure the safety of the affected family. After attaining the certified copy of the court orders Razia and his family went back to Faisalabad.

20- Kamran Sandhu and Nauman Aslam Vs Gujranwala Electric power company (Job Matter)



Religious discrimination is heavily embedded in social fabric in Pakistan and prevails in every sphere of life. It is institutionalized through various laws and practices. In an initiative to provide equal employment opportunity, the previous government approved a 5% quota for Non-Muslim citizens in government employment. Kamran Sandhu (29) and Nauman Aslam both are residents of Gujranwala. Kamran and Nauman applied for a line superintendent with Gujranwala Electric Power Company on 3 open vacancies reserved for non-Muslim candidates.

They fulfilled all the requirements of the job profile and were very confident that they will be hired. Both successfully passed the recruitment test and were among the short listed candidates for the vacant positions. They were called for face to face interview on 13th January 2020. After the interview they were told that the list of successful candidates will be posted within a month. After much waiting the list of filled vacancies with the successful candidates was posted but the 3 vacancies for minorities were not filled. On inquiry both were told that the company is holding off recruitment for the minority seats. Kamran and Nauman were not satisfied with the given answer; they decided to seek justice through the Court. On September 7th, 2020 Kamran and Nauman approached CLAAS office for legal assistance in this regard. On 16th September 2020 CLAAS lawyer filed a writ petition under Article 199 of the constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan, in the Lahore High Court on behalf of Kamran and Nauman asking the learned Court to protect their legal rights secured through 5 percent minority quota sanctioned by the government and restrict the Electric Power Company from filing the seats reserved for non-Muslim candidates. Entertaining this petition on September 23rd, 2020 Justice Muhammad Sajid Mehmood Sethi restricted the Electric Company to decide the matter strictly in accordance with the law and report to the court within a period of thirty days. After receiving the court orders the Electric Company recruiting department told Kamran and Nauman that they were not qualified, CLAAS will now file contempt of court against the hiring Electric Company.

21- Ashraf Masih Vs SHO (Rushna abduction case)

Ashraf Masih approached CLAAS office on December 8th, 2020 for seeking legal help for his daughter Rushna aged about 21 years. His daughter Rushna is married and was living with her husband Naeem Rehmat in a joint family. The marriage was performed on October 11, 2020. He was in contact with her daughter but she did not share anything with him about her marriage life.

On November 27th, 2020 he received a phone call from Rushna's husband that Rushna was missing from his home. Upon asking her whereabouts, Rushna's husband Naeem did not give any satisfactory answer to Ashraf. Further, Naeem and his family did not know about Rushna. It was difficult for Rushana's parents to find out her daughter without the help of the police. Ashraf requested CLAAS for legal help for the recovery of his daughter. CLAAS filed a habeas corpus petition on behalf of Ashraf for the recovery of her daughter from Naeem and his family as the girl was missing from their house. The petition for her recovery was filed by CLAAS in the Sessions court Lahore on December 09, 2020. On the same day, the concerned Judge issued an order to the concerned Station House Officer police station Mustafabad Lahore to produce Rushna in the court on December 11, 2020. After this court notice, the concerned police investigated this matter from Naeem, and on December 11, 2020, police submitted an FIR has already been lodged in the Mustafabad police station. The FIR (first information report) was registered on November 30, 2020, on the complaint of Naeem under the offence 365-B of the Pakistan Penal Code. The court after getting the copy of the FIR disposed of the petition. Although FIR registered, but police did not find out the girl and after the CLAAS petition the concerned police started to recover the girl further investigated her husband and in-laws. CLAAS further wrote an application regarding the recovery of Rushna and submitted it to Capital City Police Officer (CCPO) Lahore for further speedy procedure.

22-The State Muhammad Shahid

Muhammad Shahid (44) is confined in Camp Jail Lahore under the charge of the blasphemy case. According to him a blasphemy case FIR no 1597/20, offence under section 295-A and 295-C of the Pakistan Penal Code was registered against him on September 29th, 2020 by the members of the Tehreek-e- Labbaik Pakistan. The complaint of the FIR Niaz Ahmed Noori s/o Muhammad Usman is a religious cleric (Imam of the local mosque). According to the First Information Report (FIR) complainant narrated that Muhammad Shahid passing derogatory remarks against the Holy Prophet (PBUH) also spoke against the religion of Islamic and Islamic customs. Bypassing derogatory remarks he hurt the religious sentiments of the entire Muslim community. The complaint also claimed that he has an audio recording of Muhammad Shahid as evidence against him. Police registered the case on September 29th, 2020, and arrested him from his home, later on, sent him to the judicial lockup, and submitted his case file in the trial court. He is facing trial and has no lawyer who will defend him in court. One of his co-prisoner informed him about CLAAS free legal assistance therefore he requested for legal help. Muhammad Shahid further shared with the CLAAS lawyer that his wife allegedly involved him in the above-said blasphemy case upon the issue of his property. CLAAS lawyer called his family member who is pursuing him in the court. On December 12, 2020, his brother Muhammad Sakinder s/o Muhammad Arif approached CLAAS office and during the statement, Sakinder shared the background of this case. After taking the facts CLAAS lawyer submitted his power of attorney in the trial court for pursuing the case of Muhammad Shahid.

23- Harassment case

Muhammad Asghar and his wife approached CLAAS on 2nd November 2020 to seek legal advice regarding a money dispute. According to the facts narrated by Muhammad Asghar few months back his distant relatives Muhammad Zaffar and Muhammad Mudasir borrowed thirty three thousand rupees (PRS. 33,000/-) from Muhammad Asghar, both promised to return the money in two months. Three months elapsed and they did not return the money as promised.



Muhammad Asghar, instead of waiting went to their house to demand his money. According to Muhammad Asghar they were not happy to see him and bluntly refused to return the money. Their argument turned into a fight. Zafar and Mudasir's friend Arshad also joined in and they all brutally beat Muhammad Asghar. He got head injuries and got stiches. After getting medical treatment he went to the police station to report this incident. Police refused to report his complaint as one of the assailant Arshad was a police informer. CLAAS appointed its legal advisor Mr. Nasir Anjum Advocate to assist the victim family. He wrote an application for registration of case against Zafar Ali, Mudasir Ali and Arshad. On November 3, 2020 Muhammad Asghar submitted application in the Hanjarwala police station; police received the application and told him that they will probe into the matter.

Success stories Legal

100 of Christian houses were set on fire in Joseph Colony-Badami Bagh, Lahore on 8th March 2013 by a large Muslim mob. The reason behind this massacre was a Blasphemy accusation on Sawan Masih one of the resident of Joseph Colony. The complainant Shahid Imran accused Sawan for making derogatory remarks against Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him). The same day 8th March 2013 a case was registered against Sawan and after police investigation he was sent to Camp Jail Lahore.



On March 27th 2014 Sawan was convicted under section 295C of PPC and sentenced to death with 200,000/- (two hundred thousand rupees) fine. His sentence was awarded by Chaudhary Ghulam Murtaza Additional and Sessions Judge Lahore. His appeal against this conviction was filed within 7days in the Lahore High Court. After conviction the jail authorities wanted to shift him in Sahiwal Jail therefore CLAAS filed an application for the fixation of his appeal but the appeal was not fixed. So, CLAAS filed a petition on February 16, 2018 under section 426 C.R.P.C. for the suspension of sentence in Lahore High Court Lahore which was disposed of on February 20, 2018 by the Divisional Bench of Lahore High Court Lahore. After four years of constant waiting a date was fixed for hearing on May 8th 2018 before the Divisional Bench (DB) of Lahore High Court Lahore. From May 2018 to October 2019 almost more than 20 dates of hearings of Sawan's appeal have been lapsed and on every date the court adjourned without hearing the appeal. The situation mentioned above made the CLAAS very disappointed by the conduct of Superior Judiciary and due to the unwanted behavior of the courts; on October 15th 2019 CLAAS National Director Mr. M.A. Joseph Francis was constrained to write an application to the Chief Justice of Supreme Court of Pakistan for fixation and early disposal of Sawan's blasphemy cases. On this application Sawan's appeal was fixed on 13th of November 2019 but adjourned for another date and was pending till October 2020. On October 5th, 2020 was Sawan's appeal hearing in the Lahore High Court against his conviction. The Divisional Bench presided by Mr. Shehbaz Ali Rizvi heard the final arguments made by CLAAS lawyer Mr. Tahir Bashir Advocate. Our lawyer insisted upon the fact that Sawan has been fabricated in this case with wrongful intentions by the land mafia. They blazed Joseph Colony and to justify this act of Blasphemy charges were leveled against Sawan. The defense lawyer also highlighted the fact that there was 34 (thirty-four) hours delay in the registration of an FIR and although the accusation was that Sawan made derogatory remarks against the Holy Prophet (PBUH) but no actual remarks were added or mentioned in the FIR. Also, the witnesses during the cross-examination had contradictory statements and they were not consistent in their remarks throughout the court trial. The honorable Judges heard both sides and reserved their judgment. At about 2:30 pm the honorable court gave their judgment acquitting Sawan Masih of all charges. CLAAS team is extremely proud and happy that after eight years of relentless efforts today our prayers were answered and Justice was upheld. We are keeping this news discreet till Sawan Masih is released from jail and is taken to a safe place and was providing them all basic necessities as Sobia left her job and Sawan was unable to do any work due to security risk.

