**Minutes of Meeting**

**Joint Network Meeting**

**Date: 7th March 2015**

**at**

**Prime Hotel & Restaurant Faisalabad**

**Background:**

The basic purpose of Joint Networking Meetings is to promote and support developing partnerships and expanding networks among Dastageer Legal Aid Center (DLAC) WSO, Faisalabad, Rights Based Organizations and other relevant stakeholders of the district. The interaction will ensure collaboration, coordination and establishing networks for workers of human rights.

**Participants of the Meeting:**

Following participated in the meeting:

1. Mr. Murtaza Advocate
2. Ms. Ume Kulsoom NCJP
3. Ms. Sabahat Women Shelter
4. Ms. Munawwar Sultana (Ex- Councilor, Working with Sarsabz Foundation and

Human Right Activist)

1. Mr. Junaid Pervaiz Ghauri Health and Education Development Organization)
2. Ms. Ishrat Rasheed Women Police Station Faisalabad
3. Ms. Gulraiz Khalid SHO Women Police Station
4. Ms. Zahida Perveen Women Police Station Faisalabad
5. Muhammad Tahir Rehbar – e – Karwan Organization
6. Mr. Basit Hafeez Adovocate
7. Mr. Naveed Walter Human Rights Focus Pakistan
8. Ms. Nabeela Enamuel Human Rights Focus Pakistan
9. Ms. Kulsoom Social Worker
10. Ms. Sahabat Ayesha Foundation
11. Ms. Aisha Rafiq Catholic Chruch
12. Mr. Abdul Ghaffar Punjab Disability Forum
13. Mr. Rana Yasir Beacon Foundation
14. M. Anwar Hussain OCD
15. Ms. Saiqa Rehmat Lok Vehar Development Organization
16. Ms. Bushra Naheed Social Worker
17. Mr. Shahid Butt Social Worker
18. Dr. Muhammad Nadeem Doctor
19. Ms. Humaira WSO
20. M. Talha Hassan WSO
21. Muqaddas Aabro WSO
22. Usman Zahoor INP

**Agenda of the Meeting:**

Following agenda items were discussed in the meeting:

**Agenda Item 1:** Progress Update by DLAC

**Agenda Item 2:** Improve/ increase coordination among Rights Based Organizations in District on Access to Justice Project

**Agenda Item 3:** Strengthening Referral Mechanism

**Agenda Item 4:** Issues/ Challenges of organizations working on Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Minorities and GBV and suggestions to overcome them

**Agenda Item 5:** Charter of Justice for Protecting Rights

**Agenda Item 6:** Action Points for future meetings

**Key Discussion Points:**

Following are the deliberations on the agenda point:

**Agenda Item 1:**

1. Usman Zahoor (INP) welcomed all the participants and explained the purpose of the Joint Network Meeting. Thereafter, Muqadas Abroo (Center Coordinator - Dastageer Legal Aid Center (DLAC) Faisalabad shared progress update of the center with the participants. She informed the participants that till now DLAC has provided legal aid to 25 vulnerable persons including persons with disabilities minorities and survivors of GBV. She further shared the number of beneficiaries that were facilitated by the center that did not fall within the scope of the center and therefore referred to other relevant organizations.
2. Naveed from HRFP appreciated the efforts of DLAC Faisalabad. On an inquiry about the publicity/awareness method of the project, it was informed that Puppet Shows, Theatre and Radio FM programmes were being utilized for community awareness and seminars for the other stakeholders including, judiciary, lawyers, bar, police and relevant government departments. M. Tahir from Rahbar e Karwan suggested that as Faisalabad is a large district and it has 4 Tehsils and not many people listen to radio programmes these days, therefore the awareness strategy should must ensure its project visibility in rural areas of Faisalabad District. He further suggested that radio programmes need to be conducted in local language. He assured his support for arrangement of such programmes at Radio. Several other participants also suggested that there is a need to distribute IEC material in schools and colleges especially girls as the priority area includes GBV.
3. M. Tahir from Rahbar e Karwan showed his concern about the location of the center and difficulties that persons with disabilities might face while approaching the center as it is on the fourth floor of the building. It was shared there is a lift available in the building and the center has availed a wheel chair and a wooden ramp as well to facilitate its clients. In case there in no electricity the center has a room available at the ground floor to deal with the clients. He facilitated
4. Ghulam Murtaza Advocate (Panel Lawyer DLAC) suggested to increase the scope of project in order to facilitate maximum people.

**Agenda item 2:**

1. INP highlighted the importance of coordination among NGOs and Government Departments. It was reiterated that there is a need to improve/increase & strengthen the coordination & referral mechanism among NGOs and CSOs of District Faisalabad. It was further added that various organizations have expertise in different areas, therefore if a person approaches with a problem that can be resolved by other organization then it can be referred to that relevant organization and by this all the organizations will be able to facilitate every community member who seeks assistance.
2. On the issue of sustainability of the issue of access to justice after the project tenure from Rehbar e Karwan it was highlighted that the projects cannot be for unlimited time periods, therefore other forums should be activated, for example “district legal empowerment committees (DLECs)” by Law & Justice Commission. These committees are to be activated in every district for the provision of legal aid to the poor people. It was added that all the participants can play their role for the activation of these committees to benefit the communities. In addition a commitment and ownership by the district organizations working on human rights can provide sustainability to the cause.
3. Basit Hafeez, Advocate (and Panel Lawyer Center) assured that will arrange a meeting with District & Session Judge in near future and will inform the WSO team to come and play their role for the sustainability. He also stressed the need to improve publicity material and increase its circulation among the community.
4. Mr. Yasir from Becon Foundation highlighted the importance of support from political leaders and government officials for this purpose. While appreciating the efforts of DLAC, he informed the participants that Beacon Foundation has been affiliated with the center since its establishment as a support organization and has referred people to DLAC for legal aid and legal matters. All participants agreed that in future they will work together and will also do whatever they can for the activation of “DLEC”.
5. Gulnaz SHO of Women Police Station shared information about the free protection help line created by Faisalabad Police. She further explained the detailed procedure and also shared the brochures with the meeting participants to promote the helpline and protection center among the community. She appreciated the current meeting and requested that such forums should be organized on a regular basis engaging the police department who is working for the protection of women in Faisalabad. She emphasized the need for mutual support and cooperation of both DLAC with police with in order to make the centers effective and efficient. She also shared her contact details with the participants and said any organization can contact her for any support from the police station.
6. Munawar Sultana, Human Rights Activist suggested that meetings should be arranged in different communities to promote this project. She assured that she will share about DLAC and women protection center police in every event organized for women and women of her community.
7. It was agreed upon by all participants to develop Facebook group of these organizations.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks by the center coordinator.

**Action Points:**

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| **Sr. #** | **Actions(Required)** | **Responsibility** |
| **1** | Arrange meeting in near future with District & Session Judge. | Mr. Basit Haffez Advocate |
| **2** | Sessions will be conducted in the community and meeting with community based organization | Ms. Munawar Sultana |
| **3** | Make Facebook group for all organizations of the  District to increase coordination | Mr. Talha Hassan |
| **4** | Arrangement of Radio Program and participation of any person from Dastageer Legal Aid Center Faisalabad. | Mr. Tahir |