**Minutes of Joint Networking Meeting**

**Of**

**Dastageer Legal Aid Center-Swat**

**Under**

**Access to Justice for Vulnerable Populations in Pakistan Project**

Minutes of the Joint Network meeting organized by Dastageer Legal Aid Center (DLAC) Swat-The Awakening, on Friday, 30th January, 2015 at Serena Hotel Swat to share the progress update of the centers with other Rights Based Organizations (RBOs) and stakeholders and to discuss and develop ways to increase and strengthen coordination and collaboration among these organizations within the district.

**Background:**

The basic purpose of Joint Networking Meetings is to promote and support developing partnerships and expanding networks among Dastageer Legal Aid Center (DLAC) Swat, Rights Based Organizations and other relevant stakeholders of the district including Social & welfare Department, Judiciary, Bar and Law enforcement Agencies. The interaction will ensure collaboration, coordination and establishing networks for workers of human rights.

**Participants of the Meeting:**

1. Mr.Raza Ali (Program Manager, INP)
2. Ms. Shagufta Aziz (Project Manager, INP)
3. Ms. Saria Zafar ( Finance &op Manger )
4. Ms. Ghazala Rehman ( Center Coordinator, The Awakening)
5. Mr. Iftikhar Hussain ( Counselor /operator, The Awakening)
6. Ms Neelofar ( Chair Person , Lawaz )
7. Mr Inam ur Rehman (Chairmain , Qumami Jirga )
8. Mr Fazal Rehim (Project Manager, Right to Play )
9. Mr Jawed Ali Khan (District CBHFA Officer, PRCS/CRC )
10. Mr Jamal Shah Mohmand (Deputy District officer , Social Welfare Dept )
11. Mr Nasar Alam ( District Coordinator , Aurat Foundation )
12. Mr Shah Wazir Khan (HRD Reat Network Swat , )
13. Mr Tahir Abbasi (Admin Assistant , EPS )
14. Mr Inayat Ur Rehman (Liaison Officer , Hujra)
15. Mr Manglesh (HRD Minority Right ) , Painan Alumn Trust
16. Mr Abdul Sattar (Tolana Member , Painan Alumn Trust )
17. Mr Usmani Gul (District Coordinator , Painan Alumn Trust )
18. Mr Kashif Ghani ( Rehman Ali Garge , Social Mobilize r )
19. Mr Shamsher Ali (Program Officer , The Awakning )
20. Ms Hadiqa Bashir (Chairperson , Girls United For Human Right )
21. Mr Arshad Alam Khan (Legal Adviser, SRSP ) , Painan Alumn Trust )
22. Mr Shoukat Saleem ( Legal Adviser , DLAC Swat )
23. Mr Naseer ullah Khan ( Advocate High court )
24. Mr Hassan Khan (Computer operator , The Awakening )
25. Mr Khan Abdula Khan Student

**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

**Meeting Progress/ Key Discussion Points**:

The details of the deliberations are as follows:

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

**Discussion:**

1. The meeting started with the recitation of the Holy Quran and after that Manglesh was invited to recite a few verses from “Guru Granth Sahib” (Holy book of Sikh religion).
2. After the introduction, Ghazala Rehman Center Coordinator, gave presentation on the progress update of DLAC Swat explaining the scope of the project and services provided including 24/7 toll-free helpline, legal aid and assistance with court representation and psychosocial support and counseling. There are 2 counselors and a panel of 5 lawyers at the center. The center she mentioned was catering the needs of the vulnerable populations of district Swat. With regard to data it was shared that uptil 31st December, 2014, out of 16 court cases, 5 have been successfully and 194 people have accessed the center either through helpline or through walk-in.
3. Jamal Shah the DDO Social Welfare raised the issue of non-presence of a female lawyer in the panel to which it was replied that there are only two female lawyers in district Swat, one is already engaged with another organization while one has been employed as government employee and therefore unavailable. There is another female lawyer who has completed her studies but she is not allowed to practice in the court from her family.

**Agenda Item 2, 3 & 4:** Improve/ increase coordination among Rights Based Organizations in District on Access to Justice Project, Strengthening Referral Mechanism and Issues/ Challenges of organizations working on Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Minorities and GBV and suggestions to overcome them.

**Discussion:**

1. Nisar Alam from Aurat Foundation showed great interest and enthusiasm, and emphasized on strengthening and increasing coordination among organizations. He added that this coordination and goodwill must be remain for always. He further suggested to develop an action plan for the strengthening of this coordination with lead role of the Social Welfare department.
2. Jamal Shah DDO Social Welfare assured of his support to all organizations of the district. He informed that the department had already developed a matrix to collect profiles of all NGOs working in the district and their priority areas. These were circulated but the organizations have not responded. Therefore the matrix will be circulated again and a profiling of all organizations of the district may be developed. He further suggested The Awakening to play the lead role in strengthening the coordination mechanism.
3. Fawad Khan from Red Crescent Pakistan agreed that a better referral mechanism must be developed, whereby the organizations may refer their cases or clients to relevant institutes.
4. Director SDC stressed the need for development of a referral directory and circulated to all.
5. It was jointly agreed upon that a district level Facebook page of all the organizations as the Justice Cluster Swat should be initiated with lead role of DLAC-The Awakening
6. Manglesh HRD from Sikh Community, raised the issue of unawareness of minority community on Job Quota percentage, issues in praying in their religious institutions and the issue of Christian graveyard. Social Welfare Department was very forthcoming and responded to look into the matter. As to the unemployment issue, he shared that there are funds available for the development of projects especially for women belonging to any religion or caste. He advised Manglesh to ask women from his community to develop projects and the Social Welfare Department will even facilitate them in the development of the projects once they approach it.

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

**Discussion:**

1. It was highlighted that the ultimate goal of the coordination through these meetings is to have all organizations working on human rights at a central point together to develop a Justice cluster of the district. The organizations will develop through collaborative efforts some action points to be agreed upon by all to enhance/ improve access to justice in the district.

**Action Points:**

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| Action(s) Required | Responsibility |
| Formation of Referral Directory on district level with the matrix of Social Welfare Department | Social Welfare Department |
| Development of a Facebook page of all the organizations/ institutes part of the Network Meeting | DLAC Swat-The Awakening |
| Develop a mailing list of all organizations present in the group and circulate to all participants | DLAC Swat-The Awakening |