**Minutes of Joint Networking Meeting**

**Of**

**Dastageer Legal Aid Center-RCDS Nankana Sahib**

**Under**

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

Minutes of the Joint Network meeting held on 6th February, 2015, at Golden Hotel Nankana Sahib to share the progress update of the centers with other Rights Based Organizations (RBOs) and 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) RCDS Nankana Sahib, 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:

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| Sr No | Name | Designation | Department/ORG |
| 1 | Shazadi Arshad | District Coordinator | SAP- PK |
| 2 | Zakia Rani | G Secretary | Hiyatul Huda |
| 3 | Shaheen Fatima | President | MCH Society |
| 4 | Ghulam Jilani | President | Hiyatul Huda |
| 5 | Sadiq Masih | G Sectary | Youth Welfare Society |
| 6 | Shahid Waseer | DDO (S W) | Social Welfare |
| 7 | Sarfraz Hussian | Director HR | Sanjh Preet |
| 8 | Aslam Ali | LFR | Rescue1122 |
| 9 | Kamran Ali | Si | Rescue1122 |
| 10 | Yasmeen | Finance Secretary | Bahali Mazooran |
| 11 | Rana M. Siddique | President | Bahai Mazooran |
| 12 | Hafiza Saima | Finance Secretary | Pahchan Welfare Society |
| 13 | Rai Ali Nasir | Advocate |  |
| 14 | Manzoor Hussian | Helpline | Sanjh Preet |
| 15 | Jamil Ahmad | SCO | RCDS |
| 16 | Ali Ahmad | Branch Manager | RCDS |
| 17 | Farzand Shaique | Vice President | YMWS |
| 18 | M Saeed Alvi | Lawyer |  |
| 19 | Ch. Nazir Ahmad Sadique | Lawyer |  |
| 20 | M .Shaihd | RSO | Rescue 1122 |
| 21 | R. Mahmood | President District Bar |  |
| 22 | Mian Sohial Ahmad | Advocate |  |
| 23 | Qudrat Ullah Shahid | G Secretary | MCH |
| 24 | Maninder Singh | Member | Pakistan Sikh Community |
| 25 | Ali Imran | Advocate |  |
| 26 | Abdul Hameed Rehmani | Social Worker |  |
| 27 | Asif Iqbal | Reporter | Nai Baat |
| 28 | Usman Zahoor | INP |  |
| 29 | Malik Khurram | INP |  |
| 30 | Yasir Ali | DLAC | RCDS |
| 31 | Faraht Parveen | Center Coordinator | DLAC RCDS |

**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 Dastageer Legal Aid Center (DLAC), Nankana Sahib

1. The meeting was initiated by introduction of the participants and then explaining the purpose of the current meeting in detail. A presentation on the progress of the legal aid center was given to the participants whereby the major services provided by the center including 24/7 toll-free helpline, psychosocial support, legal aid and referral mechanism were explained in detail. Brief data comprising of number of beneficiaries in terms of legal assistance and court cases was also provided.

**Agenda Item 2 & 3:** Improve/ increase coordination among Rights Based Organizations in District on Access to Justice Project and Strengthening Referral Mechanism

1. Farhat Praveen, Center Coordinator, DLAC-RCDS highlighted the need for developing referral protocols while getting the clients through referral mechanism from various organizations/ institutes including sharing the amount of information about the court case of the clients with that organization.
2. Usman Zahoor, Insaf Network Pakistan, reiterated in strengthening coordination with all stakeholders of the project in the district including the Government Departments, Judiciary, rights based organizations, judiciary bar associations etc.
3. Sarfraz Ahmad Qadri, Sanjh Preet shared that his organization has been affiliated with DLAC, Nankana sahib since initiation as a support organization with special focus on minorities. He stressed the need for sustainability of the project whereby legal aid center has been established with its portfolio of services and their ownership taken up by the organization. He appreciated DLAC-RCDS’s sensitization workshop being held at Sanjh Preet in which all the panel lawyers and pro-bono lawyers participated along with the DLAC and RCDS staff. He offered to use their office as a venue for the next joint networking meeting.
4. President District Bar Association also assured of their support on behalf of the Bar.
5. Shahid Waseer, DDO, Social Welfare informed that the department is in the process of developing a Helpline mechanism whereby the referral directory containing all the relevant organizations of the district to be in front of the operator. The task of the operator will be to refer the client or case to the relevant organization. On the queries of participants about the operator, the ownership of helpline and the exact mechanism, DDO Social Welfare replied that the idea was in the initial phase and the DLAC Nankana Sahib may facilitate in the department in this regard. It was also agreed upon unanimously to develop a referral service directory containing information of all the relevant organizations and their scope of work/ services.
6. Shaheen Fatima from MCH Society stressed the need of sharing this directory as in the past this information has not been shared with all.
7. It was also recommended by several participants that DLAC may take a lead role in building the capacity of grassroots level CBOs on management, paralegal and communication skills etc.
8. Participants also suggested to include local community organizations in future meetings working on general issues, other than human rights or legal rights to have them as part of general mainstream.

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

1. DLAC Nankana Sahib informed that the center has made efforts to make it accessible for all, especially persons with disabilities by developing a ramp and procuring a wheelchair.

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

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 |
| To develop a mailing list of all organizations/ institutions present in the current meeting to keep all stakeholders connected for future concerns. | DLAC, Nankana Sahib |
| The next meeting to be organized at Sanjh Preet’s Office | DLAC Nankana Sahib & Sanjh Preet |
| Development Referral Directory of Rights Based Organizations present in Nankana Sahib in coordination with Social welfare Department | DLAC Nankana Sahib |