**Minutes of Joint Networking Meeting**

**National Rural Development Program-Sahiwal**

Minutes of the Joint Network meeting held on 19th February 2015, at Bell canto Restaurant Sahiwal in order to share the progress update of Dastageer Legal Aid Center (DLAC) Sahiwal with other Rights Based Organizations (RBOs) and to discuss and develop ways to increase and strengthen coordination and collaboration among these organizations within Sahiwal District.

**Background:**

The basic purpose of Joint Networking Meetings is to promote and support developing partnerships and expanding networks among DLAC-NRDP, Sahiwal, 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. #** | **Name** | **Designation** | **Organization** |
| 1 | Rai M Zafar | President | Andaz Welfare Foundation |
| 2 | Malik M Sabir Dhako | President | Qatbia Women Welfare Foundation |
| 3 | Dr Javed Joiya | President | Abadat Welfare Society |
| 4 | M Anas Ramzan | Manager CBDAWS | Abadat Welfare Society |
| 5 | Lubna Nadeem |  | The Salvation Army |
| 6 | Sunaila Anwar |  | The Salvation Army |
| 7 | Capt. Sajida Altaf | President | The Salvation Army |
| 8 | Rehman Hamid | President | Lawyer |
| 9 | Syed Ali Zain Sherazi | Advocate | Lawyer |
| 10 | M Ajmal | Advocate | Lawyer |
| 11 | Muzzammil Hussain | Advocate | Lawyer |
| 12 | Sumera Adrees | Advocate | Lawyer |
| 13 | Ashik Naz Khokhar | Gen. Secretary | Active Youth Group |
| 14 | Zafar Sunil | Social Worker | Active Youth Group |
| 15 | Iftikhar Khan | Advocate | Lawyer |
| 16 | Nauman Hafeez | Sr. Program Officer | The Asia Foundation |
| 17 | M Safdar | Social Worker | Social Welfare |
| 18 | Syed Imran Haider | President | USWA |
| 19 | Abdul Rehman | MSO DHQ SWL | Social Welfare |
| 20 | Asif Nawaz | President | CDC Sahiwal |
| 21 | Sitwat Ali | DDO Social Welfare SWL | Social Welfare Dept. SWL |
| 22 | Sunro Shabir | SSW Sahiwal | Social Welfare |
| 23 | Sajjad Ahmad | USWA Worker | USWA |
| 24 | Abdul Ghafar | Worker | USWA |
| 25 | Tassawur Hussain | Project Manager | Bunyad Foundation |
| 26 | Umar Raza | Social Mobilizer | Bunyad Foundation |
| 27 | Usman Zahoor | M & E | INP |
| 28 | Khuram Dildar | M & E Officer | INP |
| 29 | Hassan Nawaz Khan | A&F Officer | NRDP - SWL |
| 30 | Sajjad Haider | DLAC Coordinator | NRDP - SWL |

**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:**

**Agenda Item 1:**

1. DLAC Coordinator, Sajjad Haider shared the progress update of DLAC Sahiwal with the participants and conveyed that the center has been established in Sahiwal in November, 2014 and is now fully operational. He further informed about the services provided in the center including legal aid (court representation as well as out-of-court settlement), psychosocial counseling and toll free helpline number.
2. He added that two counselors are available in the center for psychosocial support and a ramp has also been constructed in the center so that persons with disabilities can easily access the center. While sharing the progress, he further added that a panel of five lawyers has also been taken on board in order to provide free legal aid to the victims of Gender Based Violence, Persons with disabilities and minorities.

**Agenda item 2, 3 & 4:** Improve/ increase coordination among Rights Based Organizations in District on Access to Justice Project, Strengthen Coordination and share experiences for providing solution for challenges while working with survivors of GBV, persons with disabilities and minorities.

**Discussion:**

1. INP emphasized the importance of collective efforts of all the rights based organizations working in the district to improve the access to justice for poor and vulnerable populations.
2. Captain Sajjad Altaf (President of Salvation Army – Support Organization) suggested that all organizations should meet once in a month to improve/increase coordination among them. He further added that most of the organizations do not attend the meetings/seminars of other organizations even if they are invited. Therefore to increase coordination and information sharing, the NGOs/ CBOs should visit the events/seminars of other organizations.
3. Rehman Hamid, President of District Sahiwal Bar also re-iterated a need for strengthening coordination between Civil Society and Community especially in remote areas.
4. Tasawwar Hussain from Buniyad foundation stressed the need for inviting local, smaller organizations as these are working at the grassroots level and may form a link in getting the message to the community in remote rural areas.

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

**Discussion:**

1. It was suggested that all organizations working on human rights need to voice their concerns from a single platform and form a justice cluster of the district to improve the access to justice for vulnerable populations. Representatives of civil society and services delivery institutions showed their willingness for the said purpose and emphasized that such kind of meetings should be conducted periodically so that the progress can be shared with all stakeholders in a timely manner and the way forward can be sorted out in case of issues and challenges.

**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 together and connected for future concerns. | DLAC Sahiwal |
| Joint Network Meeting to be utilized as a platform where in every meeting at least 2 organizations will be allowed to share their scope of work as well. | DLAC Sahiwal |
| Profile Sharing of other NGOs working in Sahiwal District | DLAC Sahiwal |
| Organizations (CBOs)from remote rural areas shall also be invited in next Joint Networking Meeting | DLAC Sahiwal |