**Joint Network Meeting**

**Dastageer Legal Aid Center, Farmers Development Organization, Multan**

**Dated: 16th February 2015**

Minutes of the Joint Network meeting held on 16th February, 2015, at FDO Office, Multan 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) FDO, Multan, 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:**

1. Ammad Ahsan President (Nation Server Organization)
2. Shanzay Manzoor Information Secretary (RPO)
3. Razish Liaquat Puri Coordinator (USP)
4. Farooq Langah President (RDO)
5. Sadaf Nayab Resource Person (RDO)
6. Shahida Zafar WRA
7. Uzma Amin Dastageer Center (Counsellor)
8. Usman Zahoor M & E (INP)
9. Malik Khurram M & E (INP)
10. Rubina Aslam Dastageer Center Coordinator
11. Nadir Khan Vice President
12. M. Tabassum Advocate Lawyer
13. Khalid Ghani G. Secretary DBA – Multan
14. Raheel Ahmad Advocacy officer
15. Ghulam Murtaza Lawyer

**Agenda**

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**: (Progress update by DLAC)

**Discussion:**

1. Meeting was initiated by introduction of the participants. Khuram Dildar INP briefly explained the purpose of Joint Networking Meeting. A presentation on the progress of Dastageer Center was given by Ms. Rubina Rana (Center Coordinator) in which the scope of the project, and services/facilities which are being provided by Dastageer Center were discussed in detail.
2. The participants asked for feedback mechanism whereby a complaint may be registered in case a beneficiary is charged by the lawyer. It was clarified that a continuous process of evaluation and quality assurance was available to avoid these issues. In addition the centers remained in contact with the beneficiaries to have feedback.
3. In response to the scope of the project, it was explained every program/ project is designed to cater different needs and it was researched that the human rights violations were more in the areas of Gender Based Violence, Persons with Disabilities and Ethnic and Religious Minorities. However the cases that do not directly fall into the scope of the project are facilitated through other relevant organizations/ institutes.

**Agenda Point 2 & 3**

**Improve/Increase and Strengthen Coordination and referral mechanism among right based NGOs for Access to Justice Project**

**Discussion**

1. Ammad Ahsan (President of Nation Server) emphasized the need for greater coordination at district level including organizations from far-off areas of district Multan.
2. Shahida Zafar from Women Rights Association agreed and stressed the need to increase awareness of community in remote areas of the district in order to increase demand for legal Aid services. She assured to convey message to the community about DLAC so that more and more number of people can get benefit through it.
3. Farooq Langh from RDO also emphasized the need to increase the awareness about the project. In this regard he suggested the involvement and support of local Government departments. He suggested to focus on increasing the visibility of DLAC. He further stated that it should be ensured that the persons referred from one organization to another organization/department has been facilitated. This will strengthen linkages. He recommended to have follow-up meetings on monthly basis.

**Agenda Item 3:** 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.
2. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks.

**Action Points:**

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| Action(s) Required | Responsibility |
| Agenda of the meeting should be pre-shared next time | DLAC FDO |
| In the next meeting 1-2 organization may also be allowed to briefly share their scope of work at the forum | DLAC FDO |