

# Lahore Education and Research Network (LEARN)

## Year in Review 2019-20

### About Us

Lahore Education and Research Network (LEARN) is a Capacity Building and Research Network of professionals based in Lahore that works in unison with other institutions and individuals on a collaborative-model bases. In this way, we act as the bridge between the institutions we work with and the professional trainers, researchers and experts we liaison and network with to provide world class training, development and research to our clients tailored as per their needs and demands.

Our current focus is on legal education and practice in Pakistan and we endeavor to provide the best trainers and programme modules customized to suit the individual needs of our clients.

### Our Mission

Established in the year 2015, LEARN aims to bridge the gap between education, research and practice thereby, increasing the intellectual capacity of the trainees and to equip them with practical skills that would enable them to build on their theoretical knowledge. We believe in the collective strength of synergizing the best of talent and knowledge to bring it to people and places where it is most needed.

### What We Do

LEARN operates by way of developing linkages with master trainers and experts in the field of law, politics, governance, economy, development and education as well as career and academic counselors and organizations to develop, arrange, organize and manage research and capacity building seminars and workshops.

In this way, we are able to offer convenient and flexible programmes that focus on developing and harnessing specialized skills including, but not limited to, academic writing and research methodologies, presentation skills, CV and resume development, negotiation and professional development, teacher training and faculty development.

We also offer our own research, commentaries and analysis of laws and policy input for international and intergovernmental organizations, NGOs, as well as for

government departments on the interplay and implications of international law areas and the consequent position of Pakistan and its resulting obligations thereof.

### Our Expertise

Research Areas	Professional Development	Academic Development
Gender & Law	Intellectual Capacity Building	Academic Writing & Support
Inclusion & Diversity	Skills Development	Research Methodologies
Trade & Investment	Negotiation & Presentation	Referencing & Footnotes
Rights & Governance	Networking & Industry Practice	Personal Statements & Applications
Education	Resume Development	Career & Academic Counseling
Environment	Ethics & Conduct	Faculty Development

### Our Year in Review (2019-20)

#### 1. “Writers Meet and Greet” | 21 June 2019



The Writers’ Meet and Greet was the second session held under the ‘rethinking writing’ initiative in association with Olomopolo media. The session featured young writers both in English and Urdu language and gave them an opportunity to read their excerpts and/or poetry. The readings were

followed by an open discussion with the budding writers and an attempt to understand their writing process and preferences was made in order to make the session more engaging.

The participants included, amongst others, **Aisha Hamid**, **Khizer Hayat Khan**, **Mumtaz and Mehnaz Mir**, **Rabeea Hayat**, **Muaz Hameed Khan**, **Abdullah Kassar**, **Mariam Saeed Khan**, **Abdul Wahab**, and **Komal Bhatti**.

The session was mentored by **Sana Munir**, author of 'unfettered wings', **Shabana Mahfooz** freelance journalist and **Ali Mazhar**

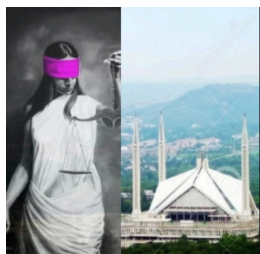
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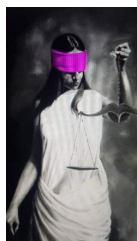


## 2. Women in Law – Islamabad Chapter Launch | 7th July 2019

Our Women in Law Initiative reached another milestone when we were able to establish its Islamabad chapter along with taking our coveted dialogue series forward.



We talked about “from access to advancement” with our esteemed panel comprising of Senior Advocate **Rahat Kaunain,**



Women in Law Dialogue Series – Session 5

From Access to Advancement –  
Enhancing Women's  
Representation in Law

7th July, 2019

Islamabad



**Benazir Jatoi, Amna Abbas, Huma Jamil Babur, and Minahil Khan.**

Sitting MNA **Shandana Gulzar Khan** graced the occasion as our Chief Guest while Secretary of Islamabad High Court Bar Association Mr. **Umair Baloch** as the Guest of Honour.





### 3. Bar Elections and Voting – with RMA & Co. | 14<sup>th</sup> September 2019

Given the disconnect between number of registered lawyers and the numbers of active voters in Bar elections, we felt that it was important to create awareness around this issue and more than that, it was important to offer advice and training on voting procedures so that more active participation from lawyers can be ensured in the election process.



**Advocates Muhammad Ahmad Qayyum, Raheel Kamran Sheikh and Rabbiya Bajwa** spoke on the occasion and shared their learned experience with the audience.

The session was held in association with Raja Mohammad Akram and Co. and Qanoondan.

### 4. Is Law for Me – with QLC | 21<sup>st</sup> September 2019

In 2019, we partnered with Quaid e Azam Law college, one of the most prestigious institutions for law degree in Lahore and kick-started their academic year with a career session that looked at the different career options in law.

The session was led by **Barrister Maryam Salman** and **Advocate Waiza Rafique** and supported by **Nida Usman Chaudhary**.



**Barrister Maryam** spoke about Bar at Law as an option post LL.B and what was required from the students in order to apply for it.

**Advocate Waiza** sketched a picture of legal practice in Pakistan particularly what is expected of the candidates in the early years of their careers and how they could learn to navigate and learn.

**Ms. Nida** spoke about the non-traditional career options in law and shared with the students some of the unconventional career paths that can lead to a rewarding and fulfilling career in law.

In addition to that, she also encouraged the students to explore judiciary as a career option.



## 5. International Collaboration with 'The Why Foundation' | 16<sup>th</sup> Oct 2019



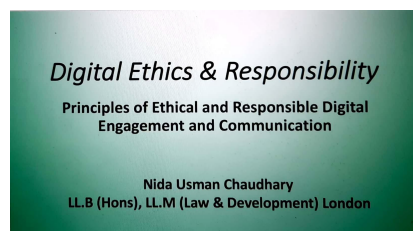
THE WHY FOUNDATION is a charitable organization that supports sustainable development by securing free access to reliable information for millions of people around the world. They produce and distribute documentaries & multimedia content about human rights, democracy, justice and equality. Their documentaries are used in schools, community centres, public cinemas and brought to citizens at large through their growing network of 70+ public service television stations in 200 countries and territories. We are proud to be their partners in Pakistan for selected documentaries.

## 6. Women in Law KPK Chapter Launch | 18<sup>th</sup> Oct 2019

The Women in Law KPK Chapter is led by Advocate **Mehwish Muhib Kakakhel**. They launched the chapter in Peshawar on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2019 with a discussion on Rights and Privileges for Women in Law.



## 7. Session on Responsible Digital Engagement | 18<sup>th</sup> Oct 2019



Pakistan Youth Change Advocates invited Ms. **Nida Usman Chaudhary** as part of a workshop at University of Gujrat. Her session focused on Responsible Digital Engagement. Around 30 students from journalism and mass communication attended her lecture and exchanged ideas on way forward towards creating awareness around ethical and responsible digital communication.

## 8. Human Rights in the Age of Climate Emergency & Toxic Air | 10<sup>th</sup> Dec 2019

On Human Rights Day 2019, LEARN in association with Quaid e Azam Law College and Qanoondan hosted a session on 'Human Rights in the Age of Climate Emergency and Toxic Air'. Since past several years, smog particularly during the winter months from November to January and beyond is a health hazard and alarming levels of toxicity in air has been recorded on the air monitoring apps.



This coupled with looming climate emergency that makes Pakistan amongst the most vulnerable nations facing climate disaster made this an absolute essential issue to speak about on Human Rights Day. This is because,

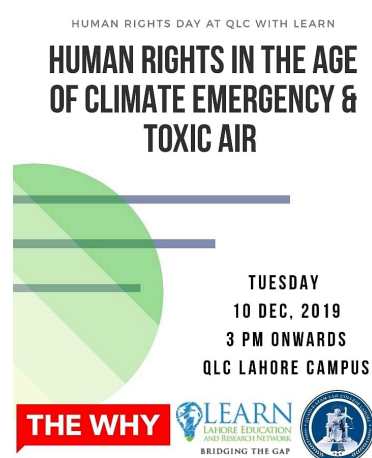
climate catastrophe has devastating impacts on human rights across the spectrum and when viewed with a gendered lens, have the potential to affect women and girls more than men.

The speakers included advocates **Sarah Hayat, Rafay Alam, Aneesa Agha, Barrister Amir Zafar Khan** and



**Ayesha Raja** while **Ali Mazhar** of 'Ain Adab' narrated his poetry

written specially for 'climate march' 2019. We are grateful to **Haris Zayad**, head of International Programmes at QLC and Principal **Nafeer A. Malik** for the opportunity to collaborate for this important session.





## 9. 'The Why' Films Festival with Olomopolo | 26<sup>th</sup> January 2020

Pursuant to our international collaboration with 'The Why Foundation' in Denmark, we organized 'The Why' Films festival in association with Olomopolo media on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2020 in Lahore.

As part of the festival, we showcased 4 of the selected documentaries on issues of importance to women such as schooling, child marriages, sanitation and health, and women's economic empowerment.

The screenings were followed by short discussions led by leading

experts in the select themes and included, Ayra Inderyas Patras, Elaine Alam, Tanzeela Khan, Nayab Gohar Jan, Zainab Najeeb, Ambreen Fatima, and Zeeba Hashmi.



## 10. Women in Law 4-year anniversary Celebrations – KPK – Islamabad – Punjab | 1<sup>st</sup> Feb 2020

On 1<sup>st</sup> February 2020, the women in law celebrated its 4 years across all its chapters. The celebrations commenced with an appraisal of the initiative and its 4-year journey while the members also discussed how to take the network forward.



Peshawar



Lahore

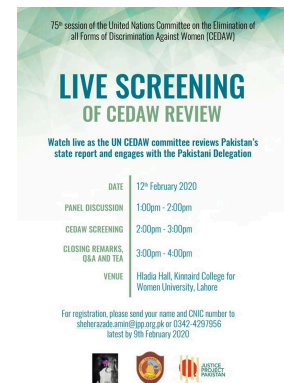


Islamabad

## 11. Live Screening of CEDAW Review of Pakistan's State Obligations – with Justice Project Pakistan| 12<sup>th</sup> Feb 2020

On 12th February 2020, Justice Project Pakistan, in collaboration

with the Kinnaird College for Women and Women in Law Initiative Pakistan, held the live screening of Pakistan's state review by the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). This was



preceded by a panel discussion moderated by Sarah Belal.



## 12. Women in Law Trip| 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb 2020



This year the women in law annual trip took us to carefully curated photo gallery put up by [#ASR](#) Resource Center documenting historic women and rights movement in Pakistan.



Years of struggle for women's rights movement culminated in an awe-inspiring and self-guided display. One of the best exhibitions with an entire



history that appears to have been erased from Pakistan, kept alive by the incredible women who work tirelessly towards the cause.



### 13. Women in Law Show – Just1.tv | 21-25 Feb 2020



Season 3 of our show 'Women in Law' with Waiza Rafique and Nida Usman Chaudhary covered 3 exclusive episodes featuring our special guests:

**Alizeh Akbar Meer**



represented the student's experience, Advocate **Tahira Perveen** Shared her experience, struggle, resilience and support in the profession post her marriage and our KPK Chapter Lead **Mehwish Muhib Kakakhel** spoke about women in law and litigation experience in Peshawar.





#### 14. Women in Law Vote in LHCBA Elections | 29<sup>th</sup> Feb 2020



#### 15. Partnership with U.S Department of Justice for Jessup Preliminary Rounds | 4<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> March 2020

This year, the **U.S Department of Justice** collaborated with **LEARN** and **Women in Law Initiative** Pakistan for the nomination of judges for the **preliminary rounds** held in Lahore on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> of March 2020 at University College Lahore. The objective behind the partnership was to encourage more participation of female nominees as judges so as to achieve gender parity and meaningful representation and effective participation of women in the field of law, within the competition.

The female judges nominated by women in law initiative included amongst others, **Barrister Maryam Salman** (Associate at MTC), **Hafsa Ahmed** (Associate at CLM), **Sahar Bandial** (Hamid Law Associates), **Barrister Anumtah Gul Shakeel** (Partner, Justice Processors Law Firm), **Maria Farooq** (Partner, Axis Law), **Yumna Baloch** (Associatw at Axis law), **Marium Khalid** (Head of Legal at Punjab Energy Efficiency and Conservation Agency, Govt of Punjab), **Maria Chaudhry** (In-House Counsel, Zameen.pk), **Sara Hayat** (Legal Consultant on Climate Change) and **Mavra Ghaznavi** (Senior Delivery Associate at Adam Smith International) **Nida Usman Chaudhary** (founder of LEARN and Women in Law Initiative) and **Mary James Gill** (former MPA and Lawyer).

#### 16. International Collaboration with Ananke Magazine | 7<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Ananke – a digital magazine based in the UAE conducted a webinar on ‘Civil Liberties under a Gender Lens in the Digital Age’ in partnership with Women in Law Initiative

Pakistan. Our panelists included **Ms. Angbeen Mirza**, Director at Office of Inclusion and Accessibility at LUMS, Advocates **Sahar Bandial** and **Nida Usman Chaudhary**. The panel also consisted of global experts including but not limited to **Mandy Sanghera**, **Muthoni Maingi** and **Kirthi Jayakumar**.

**IWD2020 CELEBRATIONS**

**CIVIL LIBERTIES UNDER A GENDER LENS IN THE DIGITAL AGE**

**MARCH 7TH, 2020**

A digital dialogue on freedom of expression, gender, media warfare & policymaking

**01** RETHINKING CIVIL LIBERTIES

**02** MEDIA WARFARE IN A SOCIAL REALITY

**03** INCLUSIVE DIGITAL SPACES

**04** ENROUTE TO GENERATION EQUALITY

**WEBINAR AGENDA**

**INTRODUCTION**

Celebrating International Women's Day 2020, Ananke is proud to host a diverse panel of speakers from the Law, New Media and Tech industries. Titled 'Civil Liberties Under a Gender Lens in the Digital Age', the webinar will take place on March 7th, 2020, Saturday at 4:00 PM UAE and is supported by Women In Law, Pakistan.

Through a gender lens, the webinar will feature an in-depth dialogue on the importance of free speech, the role and impact of digital governance in the age of disinformation; as well as reconciling intellectual privacy and online security. Panelists will also discuss empowerment to mark the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and the critical role of realising women's rights for an equal future.

**TALKING POINTS**

- Looking into freedom of expression, actions and speech in the digital age - with a special focus on Cyber VAWG (violence against women in the form of online bullying, trolling, etc.). Individual and community rights in the new reality that is social media, focusing gender in the age of disinformation and propaganda.
- Looking into access, online safety, cyber security, open web, policies and regulations.
- A look back into the struggle for civil liberties (right to express and freedom of speech for women) over the past 25 years aligned with Beijing+25 and how tech and social media advancement has enabled empowerment and new voices.

**CONTACT US**

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Email: [media@anankemag.com](mailto:media@anankemag.com)

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**WOMEN'S WEEKEND**  
for International Women's Day

**8th March 2020: #MeriKahani**  
6 pm - 9 pm

**Guest Speaker:** **Nida Usman Chaudhry**

Nida Usman Chaudhry holds LL.B (Hons) and LL.M in Law and Development from University of London. She has been teaching law since 2005 and is an internationally published author in the field of law. She is the founder of Lahore Education and Research Network as well as the 'Women in Law Initiative Pakistan'. Her focus has been on bridging the gap between legal education and practice through capacity building and to work for equality of access and advancement of female lawyers in the profession. She combines her professional interests in law and human rights with her activism on environmental and development issues. Nida is interested in promoting and cultivating understanding between people of the world for a more tolerant and peaceful society.

**For Passes**  
Contact : 03334848651

**#WomenSupportWomen**  
**#WomenEmpowerWomen**

**Rotary CLUB OF LAHORE GARDENS**

**313**

## 17. Women's Weekend | 8<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Our founder **Ms. Nida Usman Chaudhary** was invited as a guest speaker for the **#MeriKahani** session as part of the 3-day women's weekend organized to celebrate women's day 2020 in Lahore. She shared the stage with the likes of **Madam Justice (r) Nasira Iqbal**, **Noor Zehra Kazim**, **Ruhaina Qureshi**, **Ayesha Nasir**, **Hira Khan**, and **Mushaal Hussein Mullick**.

## 18. Covid-19 Awareness drive with Ananke Magazine | 24<sup>th</sup> March 2020

We joined hands with @anankemag (a digital magazine based in UAE) to raise awareness on **#COVID-19** and related issues that this pandemic has amplified. The awareness drive included submission of articles for the special edition of ananke magazine and sending short video messages on importance of SOPs during Covid to reduce the burden on healthcare workers and to help **#FlattenTheCurve**.

**#SUPPORT CAREWORKERS**

At Ananke, we believe we can really make a difference if we work together. Join us to raise awareness about COVID-19, let's engage & advocate social distancing & help ease the burden of careworkers on the frontlines.

How are you fighting the virus?  
Tweet your message/image to @anankemag, telling us how you are fighting the pandemic.  
Or email us: [Media@anankemag.com](mailto:Media@anankemag.com)

**Coronavirus Cases:**

Deaths: 353,404

Recovered: 15,410

100,614+

**#FlattenTheCurve**

The coronavirus COVID-19 is affecting 184 countries and territories around the world.

The disease arises regularly from daily life, but only when someone has a single viral particle in their system, they are at risk of becoming infected. Therefore, you must take steps to prevent your virus from spreading, always wearing your face mask and staying at least 1 meter (3 feet) away from people who are infected. But the best way to fight the virus is to not spread it by staying at home and not going to work.

## 19. Pakistan's Women in Law - Free to Download | 6<sup>th</sup> April 2020

In light of considerations of Covid-19, we made access to Pakistan's 1<sup>st</sup> women in law magazine free to [download](#) from our website.

## 20. International Collaboration | 7<sup>th</sup> April 2020

**Women in Law Initiative** Pakistan joined hands with **Institute for African Women in Law** to submit articles for their blog series on impact of Covid-19 on women and other marginalized classes. Several of our submissions featured on their blog post are accessible [here](#)



## 21. Piracy and The Writing Industry | 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2020

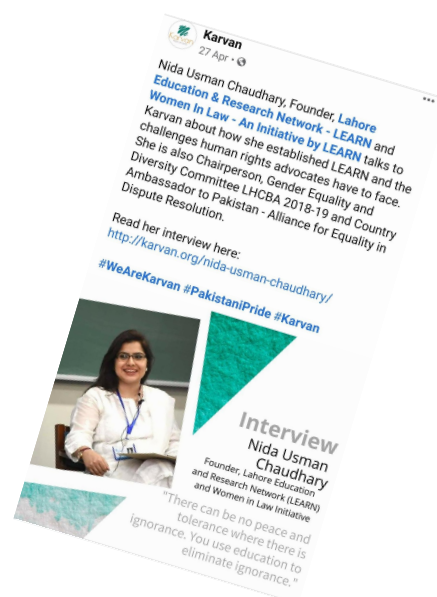


In order to mark the world book and piracy day, we conducted an online session on '**Piracy and The Writing Industry**' with leading authors from Pakistan on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2020. The session identified the challenges faced by the publishing industry in face of unchecked piracy despite laws on paper.

The session also covered the economic costs of piracy to Pakistan's national exchequer in terms of GDP and made a case for the government to look into this matter. The panelists included authors **Faiqa Mansab, Mehr F. Hussain, Awais Khan** and **Sara Naveed** while the session was moderated by our founder, **Nida Usman**.

## 22. Featured in Karvan | 27<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Karvan interviewed our founder Nida Usman on her journey to establish LEARN and the challenges human rights advocates face in Pakistan. Her full interview can be accessed [here](#).





## Updates from KPK

### 1. Free Legal Aid to Victims of Gender Based Violence | 28<sup>th</sup> January 2020

**Zeenat Muhib Kakakhel**, represented Women in Law KPK Chapter in an event organized



by Noor Education Trust where she and other members of Women in Law KPK Chapter extended their support and help in providing free legal aid to victims/survivors of gender based violence.

The President, Vice President, members of Peshawar Bar Association and other lawyers' forums who provide free legal aid were also present.

### 2. Mentorship Programme Launched in KPK | 29<sup>th</sup> January 2020

KPK Chapter Lead, **Mehwish Kakakhel** along with other members including **Zeenat** and **Kainat Kakakhel** arranged a session on mentorship of young women lawyers and with support from senior female lawyers, they extended their assistance to young women lawyers for one-on-one guidance.

The mentees were welcomed to learn drafting skills, speculate, observe and participate fully in recording of evidence in their cases. It was a very successful event. Many juniors got a chance to get associated with their mentors.

In addition to that internships were offered at different offices and apprenticeship were arranged to give hands on experience to young entrants into the profession.



## Welcoming Our Chapter Leads



**Jugnoo Kazmi**

Women in Law Chapter  
Lead - Islamabad



**Mehwish Muhib Kakakhel**

Women in Law Chapter  
Lead - KPK



**Aneesa Agha**

Women in Law Chapter  
Co-Lead - Lahore

## Learn Family Grows



**Sara Raza joined LEARN in 2019 as a Research Assistant. Her areas of interest include amongst others, gender, diversity, intersectionality and law. Post her graduation from LUMS in 2020, she continues to lend her support to research projects and initiatives at LEARN.**

## The Year Ahead | A Forecast

Great stuff coming soon your way including but not limited to:

- a. Increasing Women's Representation in Law
- b. Career Development Series
- c. Legal Trainings
- d. Academic Development Series
- e. Policy Papers, Articles and Reform Proposals

## Acknowledgements

We would like to express our gratitude for the support rendered by these institutions and persons in our journey, including but not limited to:

### Organizations:

School of Law, Lahore

Books and Beans, Lahore

CourtingTheLaw.com

Pakistan College of Law, Lahore

Sheikh Ahmad Hassan School of Law,  
Lums, Lahore

Shafiq Sons Law, Associates, Lahore

Qanoondan

The Writing Institute

Mars Multimedia

Olomopolo Media

Ananke Magazine

The Why Foundation

Institute of African Women in Law

Woza

U.S Department of State

Justice Project Pakistan

RMA & Co.

Quaid e Azam Law College

Just 1. TV

Pakistan Youth Change Advocates

### People:

Mr. Naseem Khan Achackzai

Mr. Awais Khan

Chaudhary Muhammad Atiq

Mr. Ehsan Chughtai

Prof. Humayon Ihsan

Ms. Areebah Shahid

Mr. Hisham Khan

Barrister Umar Mahmood Khan

Advocate RMS Azam

Advocate Mr. Mufti Ahtsham-uddin  
Haider

Advocate Chaudhary Muhammad Usman

Mr. Uzair Amir



Mr. Moghees-uddin Khan  
 Ms. Tasneem Kausar  
 Barrister Shabnam Ishaque  
 Dr. Ali Qizilbash  
 Mr. Muhammad Imran  
 Colonel Aamer Khan Durrani  
 Ms. Mariam Khalid  
 Ms. Azmeh Khan  
 Ms. Zoe Richards  
 Mr. Taimur Malik  
 Mr. Bilal Ramzan  
 Barrister Fatima Shaheen  
 Ms. Nighat Daad  
 Ms. Mariam Saeed  
 Ms. Nida Aftab  
 Mr. Mr. Mujtaba Jamal  
 Ms. Maryam Haq  
 Ms. Zainab Z. Malik  
 Ms. Rabbiya Bajwa

Ms. Anoshay Fazal  
 Dr. Rubina Saigol  
 Mr. Jibran Mahmood  
 Ms. Maira Sheikh  
 Ms. Ammara Farooq Malik  
 Ms. Sarah Belal  
 Mr. Muhammad Ahmad Qayyum  
 Ms. Amna Ajmal  
 Mr. Anwar ul Haq Pannun  
 Mr. Hassan Iqbal Warraich  
 Ms. Kanwal Khoosat  
 Ms. Sabin Muzaffar  
 Ms. Aneesa Agha  
 Mr. Haris Zayad  
 Mr. Nafeer A. Malik  
 Ms. Mahbano Kazmi  
 and all our contributors, members,  
 friends and colleagues whose input has  
 helped shaped our path.

### Join Us

Opportunities will arise for the following from time to time:

- Master Trainers
- Trainers
- Research Associates
- Research Assistants
- Volunteers/Student Ambassadors

For details on postings please keep visiting our Facebook page at <https://web.facebook.com/legaleducationandresearchnetwork.pk/> or log on to our website [www.learnpak.com.pk](http://www.learnpak.com.pk)