

Lahore Education and Research Network (LEARN)

Year in Review 2020-21

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
Law & Politics	Intellectual Capacity Building	Academic Writing & Support
Economy & Development	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 (2020-21)

1. Online Professional Development Session | 16 May 2020

Our online professional development session was focused on mid to post pandemic job search strategies in law. It was delivered by Barrister Sarah Kazmi and conducted under the Women in Law Islamabad Chapter Banner. Barrister Sarah spoke on job related queries,



tips, skills and strategies amidst a pandemic. She has over 12 years of industry experience and unique insights into what is required of candidates.

Barrister Sarah also covered regulatory bodies, companies and law firms as potential employers in her presentation.

2. Webinar – Stranded Spouses in collaboration with BETI | 4 June 2020

BETI in collaboration with Women in Law Initiative Pakistan arranged a webinar on the issue of legal rights of stranded spouses in England and Wales. It was delivered by Barristers Semaab Sheikh and Susie Sanders of Broadway House Chambers, UK.

The session covered:

- (i) Challenges faced by foreign national spouses,
- (ii) Immigration Law and the stranded spouse,
- (iii) The approach of the Family Courts to the stranded spouse and
- (iv) The impact of the following leading cases on the subject:

- Re S (A Child) (Guidance in the cases of Stranded Spouse) [2010] EWHC 1669 (Fam)
- N v A (Abduction from Pakistan) [2012] EWHC 3954 (Fam)
- A (Children) Re [2019] EWCA Civ 74



3. The Perils of Social Media: Mental Health & Diminishing Space | 20 June 2020



On Saturday, 20th June 2020, Lahore Education and Research Network (LEARN) hosted an in-house discussion on 'The Perils of Social Media: Mental Health and Diminishing Space'. The discussion was organised with support from Barrister Jugnoo Kazmi who is the Women in Law Initiative Pakistan's (WIL) Chapter Lead in Islamabad.

The participants for the discussion included, Ms. **Valerie Khan** Executive Director of Group Development Pakistan, Ms. **Zoe Richards**, lawyer and women's rights activist, Ms. **Elaine**

Alam, General Secretary, Faces Pakistan, Mr. **Hisham Khan** from Pakistan Youth Change Advocates, Ms. **Umaina Tahir Wadood**, journalist and online blogger, Ms. **Ramla Baig**, advocate, **Barrister Maryam Salman**, Ms. **Asha Singhania**, WOZA - Women in Law South Africa, Ms. **Jannat Ali Kalyar**, Cyber Laws and Digital Security practitioner, Ms. **Zeeba Hashmi**, peace education consultant, Ms. **Eamaan Bandial**, advocate, **Imaan Mazari**, advocate, **Barrister Ayesha Siddique Khan**, advocate and gender rights activist, Ms. **Benazir Jatoi**, advocate, **Mahnoor Waqar**, advocate, **Fatima Awan**, HR Executive Getz Pharma, advocate **Maimana Khattak** and advocate **Noor Mandwivala**.

The discussion was moderated jointly by Ms. **Nida Usman Chaudhary**, founder LEARN & Women in Law Initiative, Pakistan and **Barrister Jugnoo Kazmi**, WIL- Islamabad Chapter Lead.

The discussion aimed to look at some of the perils of social media and to take stock of how those may affect different vulnerable groups particularly in the context of their diminishing space and freedom of expression as well as the mental health implications of the online violence and abuse.



One of the leading questions under discussion related to the politicization of social media and whether that was a factor affecting diminishing online space and creating mental health implications.

In recent years, the use of social media has been revolutionized and there is increased reliance on digital tools and platforms to do business, access education and to communicate with one another. The COVID-19 pandemic has further exacerbated the dependence on technology and therefore, the harmful impacts of social media can very easily target women, children, minorities, mothers, youth, certain professionals and the elderly in their own respective ways.

The participants endeavored to identify the different sets of perils each class of persons was likely to face in their online engagement and interaction and put forth the challenges faced by lawyers, concerned authorities, and regulators in relation to creating a balance between competing rights and interests and in regulation, if any.

The question of who should regulate and how was also discussed as were the many perils that are associated with the regulation of use of social media.



4. Stranded Spouses – Follow up Session with BETI | 26 June 2020

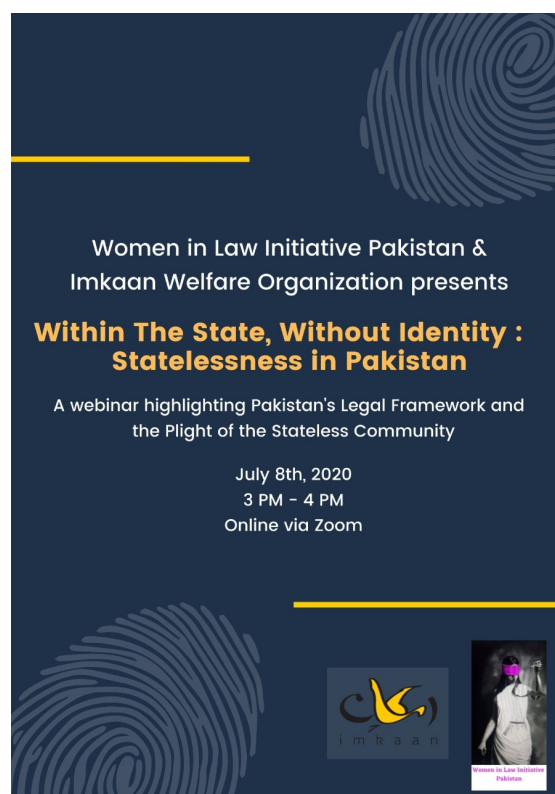
On 26 June 2020 Beti and Women in Law held the Follow-Up session on the legal position of Stranded Spouses. Our speakers Barrister Semaab Shaikh, Barrister Susie Sanders and Faiza Shaikh answered the FAQs related to this issue.

5. Webinar on Statelessness in collaboration with Imkaan Welfare | 8 July 2020

Imkaan Welfare Organization in association with Women in Law Initiative Pakistan conducted an online session for women in law on the position and plight of the stateless community in Karachi, with a particular focus on the stateless residents of 'Machar Colony' – an informal settlement in Karachi largely comprising persons of Bengali ethnicity.

Many of them do not have national identity cards which makes them stateless with far reaching social, economic, legal and political consequences.

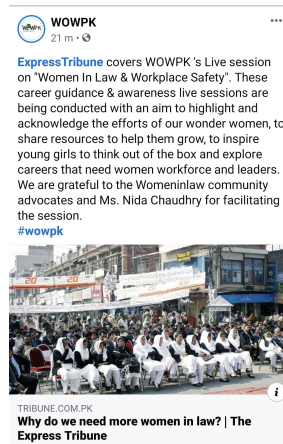
One of the aims of Imkaan's projects is to raise awareness regarding the issue of statelessness and its consequence of creating a new form of marginalized community. This session titled, "within the state, without identity: statelessness in Pakistan" was one such step in that direction.



6. Women in Law participates in a Session by Women of Wonders Pk Community | 8 July 2020



Advocates and Women in Law, **Noor Ejaz Chaudhary**, **Shiza Rehman** and **Fatima Gohar** represented Women in Law Initiative Pakistan along with our colleague **Waiza Rafique** at the session on Women in Law and Workplace Safety. The session was moderated by WOW.pk founder Zia Hassan.



7. Speaking Engagement – Peace and Justice Network | 14 July 2020



Our Women in Law Initiative Islamabad Chapter Lead, **Barrister Jugnoo Kazmi** represented us and was invited to speak by Peace and Justice Network on Challenges faced by women lawyers and litigants during Covid.

She was joined by our colleagues, **Barrister Zahra Sehr Vayani**, **Zeenat Muhib Kakakhel** and **Fatima Rizvi**. The session was moderated by **Advocate Javeria Younas**.

8. Legal Profession for the Many? | 9 Aug 2020

An online session adopting a critical review of the legal profession and its structure from the context and position of young lawyers was conducted. Largely unregulated, primarily unaccountable, the legal profession leaves much to be desired for mainstreaming entrants into the profession.

The speakers included, **Hassan A. Niazi**, **Ali Abbas Mansoor**, **Dania Mukhtar**, **Noor Bano Khan** and **Moiz Baig**.

They raised issues of lack of pay structures, clear career progression and lack of accountability mechanisms.

The panelists also looked at the challenges in the profession from a gender lens and highlighted the specific issues faced by young women.

The full conversation can be viewed here: <https://fb.watch/76DWVLzCxT/>



ONLINE SESSION

LEGAL PROFESSION FOR THE MANY?

A Critical Review

HASSAN A. NIAZI | NOOR BANO KHAN | MOIZ BAIG
DANIA MUKHTAR | ALI ABBAS MANSOOR

Sunday, Aug 09, 3 PM PST

To Register: Send Your Name, Designation,
University/Organisation and Contact to
info@learnpak.com.pk



9. Increasing Women's Representation in Law – Project Launch| 3 Sept 2020



Increasing Women's Representation in Law is a flagship collaborative action curated by Women in Law Initiative Pakistan and supported by Federal Ministry of Law and Justice, Australian High Commission and British High Commission. It is implemented with institutional support from Group Development Pakistan.

Under this project, for the first time, a public-private partnership to mainstream gender equality in the legal profession as well as to ensure equal representation of women and visibility for their work and contributions was highlighted. The project outcomes included:

- i. Instituting Pakistan's 1st Women in Law Awards honoring female legal professionals and entities performing well on gender and diversity index in over 22 categories;
- ii. Symposium leading to public of Pakistan Journal of Diversity and Inclusion on Increasing Women's Representation in Law
- iii. Baseline study on state of Women's Representation in Law (available here: <https://www.lawyher.pk/Uploads/Status-of-Women-Representation-in-Law-2020-21.pdf>)
- iv. Development of a one-stop digital portal and mobile app (www.lawyher.pk) for an on women in law.



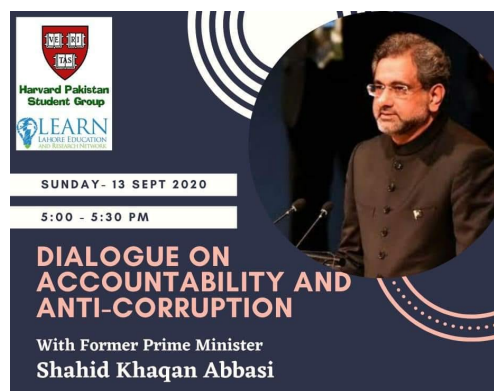
Deputy High Commissioner UK Alison Blackburne, Nida Usman Chaudhary, founder LEARN & Women in Law Initiative Pakistan Australian High Commissioner, Dr. Geoffery Shaw, Federal Law Minister, Pakistan Dr. M Farogh Nasim, Parliamentary Secretary for Law & Justice, Barrister Maleeka Bukhari, Executive Director, Group Development Pakistan, Valerie Khan and Ambreen Abbasi, Ministry of Law & Justice at the launch of Increasing Women's Representation in Law action on 3 September 2020 at Australian High Commission.

10. Collaboration with Harvard Pakistan Students Group | 6 – 13 Sept 2020



LEARN provided technical support to Harvard Pakistan Student Group for conducting two online dialogue series. The conversations focused on Karachi's governance challenges and a dialogue on accountability and anti-corruption.

Senior political leaders including **Shahid Khaqan Abbasi**, **Miftah Ismail**, **Mustafa Kamal**, **Murtaza Wahab** and **Faisal Sabzwari** joined Anchor, Host and Leading Member of Harvard Pakistan Student Group, **Advocate Moiz Baig**.



11. Women in Law joins Instagram| 15 Sep 2020

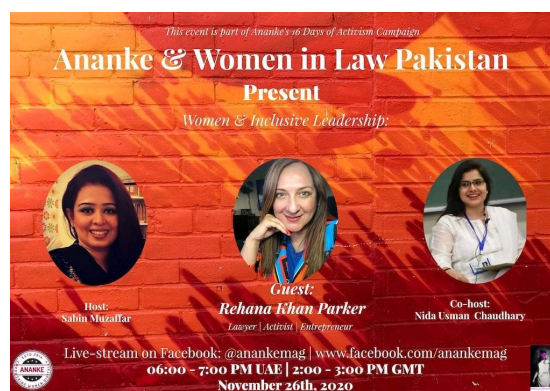


leading climate change expert and lawyer from Pakistan who spoke about the disproportionate impact on fundamental rights of women and girls in cases of flood, droughts and other climate related disasters.



14. #16DaysOfActivism - Women & Inclusive Leadership – in collaboration with Ananke Digital Magazine | 26 Nov 2020

As part of our contribution for #16DaysOfActivism against Gender Based Violence celebrated each year from November 25 till December 10 by United Nations and the world over, we collaborated with Ananke digital magazine once again and spoke to **Rehana Khan Parker** from South Africa on women and inclusive leadership and the role it can play in curbing violence against women and girls.



We explored the nexus between women in leadership and its impact on women's rights and access to opportunities and on ending discrimination & violence.

Ananke & Women in Law Pakistan Present
*Women & Inclusive Leadership:
 A Conversation With Rehana Khan Parker*
This event is part of Ananke's 16 Days of Activism Campaign

Rehana Khan Parker is based in South Africa. She has sound experience in Litigation, Public Interest Law, and International Law. South Africa is an unequal society and Rehana serves its disparate communities by providing access to justice in rural and urban areas. Founder of several NGOs and Trusts, she currently serves on the WC Provincial Council of the Legal Practice Council. Past chairperson of Black Lawyers Association Western Cape, Rehana is a trained mediator and arbitrator. Rehana holds a BPhil degree, having majored in Politics and Comparative African Government and Law. She also holds Advanced Diploma in Labour Law and a certificate in Medical Negligence. Additionally, Rehana is also the Director of Women in Law WOZA (PTY) Ltd, Director of Women in Law & Leadership Academy, Networking with The Law Society (UK), The Women in Law Pakistan Initiative, Women in Law Austria; Rehana writes for the African Women in Law blog. She is committed to the advancement of women, constantly strives to create awareness of gender and diversity imbalances and provide education to women to enable them to take their seat at a table.

Live-stream on Facebook:
 @anankemag | www.facebook.com/anankemag
 06:00 - 7:00 PM UAE
 2:00 - 3:00 PM GMT
 November 26th, 2020

#16Days #orangetheworld

15. Online Legal Training Programme – Covid and GBV – in collaboration with Acid Survivors Foundation, Group Development Pakistan – supported by European Union | Oct-Nov 2020

A seven-part online training session was organized for lawyers and shelter home personnel for addressing and handling gender-based violence cases amidst Covid crises.

The participants were made aware of the online and digital tools for reporting as well as substantive concepts



such as what constitutes gender-based violence, what is meant by psychological and economic abuse, the legal processes for pursuing cases and the jurisprudence evolving from decided cases.

The evaluation was conducted via a quiz at the end of the seven-part training series and certificates were distributed to eligible and qualified participants. The trainers included, Advocate **Huma Jamil Babar**, **Nida Usman Chaudhary**, **Huma Khan** and **Sohail Akbar Warraich**. Barrister **Jugnoo Kazmi**, Islamabad Chapter lead from Women in Law moderated the sessions. The sessions were managed jointly by Acid Survivors foundation and Women in Law Initiative. Over 100 participants registered for the training session.

16. Child Protection and Safe Campuses - Study| 10 Dec 2020

On [#HumanRightsDay](#), we launched our joint-study with Faces Pakistan on institutional reforms needed for child protection from abuse in schools and colleges to mark the culmination of [#16days](#) of activism to end [#GBV](#). Education is a fundamental right and every child must be able to access it in a safe and participatory fashion to [#RecoverBetter](#).

CHILD PROTECTION AND SAFE CAMPUSES

Recommendations for Holistic Policy
and Institutional Reforms

July - Dec 2020

The study was a result of over six months of consultations and research. It is authored by **Nida Usman Chaudhary**, LEARN, and **Elaine Alam**, Faces Pakistan.

We are grateful for the support and input by **Valerie Khan**, **Miqdad Syed**, **Dr. Haiqa Nasir**, **Naveen Rizvi**, **Rija Tayyab**, **Elaine Alam** and **Khadija Ali** for this.

To access the study, click here: <https://bit.ly/3lXF5M4>.



Nida Usman Chaudhary | Elaine Alam

13. Speaking Engagement – Mehwish Kakakhel and Jugnoo Kazmi | 12 January 2021

Our Chapter Leads from Islamabad and KP **Barrister Jugnoo Kazmi** and **Mehwish Muhib Kakakhel** with WIL Member **Imaan Mazari** participated in a facebook live session organised by University of Central Punjab. They spoke on the struggle against gender-based violence and the way forward.

14. Collaboration with Youth General Assembly | 23 Jan 2021

Our stand-alone initiative 'Women in Law' collaborated with Youth General Assembly for two sessions as part of their legal forum webinar in January. The sessions included one on 'Law from a Feminist Lens' and the other on 'Gender Insensitive and Obsolete Practices in Law'. Women in Law Initiative was represented by **Nida Usman Chaudhary**, and **Mehrunissa Sajjad**. They presented along with colleagues including Sahar Bandial, Maria Farooq, Khushbakht Jillani, Natasha Zahid, Benazir Jatoti and Sameer Khosa.

15. Tackling Human Trafficking – Crime and Prevention | 24 Jan 2021

LEARN joined hands with **Barrister Sana Pirzada** to organize an online session with **Amy Cuff** – Project Manager Aman Safety at Stop the Traffik, UK. Human trafficking is a global crisis. Every year, millions of men, women and children fall prey to traffickers in their respective countries or abroad. Often traffickers lure people with false promises of better job opportunities, financial security and fictitious declarations of love. Victims of trafficking are often then subjected to forced prostitution, slave labour etc. Amy spoke about the prevalence of international trafficking, preventative methods and how Stop the Traffik tackles this crime.





16. International Recognition – Nida Usman Chaudhary featured in Femilist 100 | March 2021

Our founder **Nida Usman Chaudhary** was featured as one of the **100 Women from Global South** in the **Femilist 2021** by Gender Security Project.

We also encourage you to view the entire list of amazing from all across the Global South and know more about the amazing work and contributions they are making here: <https://www.gendersecurityproject.com/femilist100-2021>.

The list also featured our colleague **Advocate Sahar Bandial**.

17. Speaking Engagement – Lahore School of Law | 8 March 2021

Lahore School of Law invited **Nida Usman Chaudhary** in relation to their celebrations for international women's day celebrating female lawyers. Nida took

the opportunity to speak to young law students and shared tips with them on how to secure their visibility and recognition in legal practice so that they are not excluded by reason of lack of court presence and cases in their name when it comes to progression and advancement in the field. She was joined on the panel by **Justice (r) Fakhrunnisa Khokhar** and **Advocate Mariam Saeed**.

We are here to set the bar higher!

LAHORE SCHOOL of LAW
www.LSLinternational

Seminar
Celebrating Women in Law

Panelists:
Nida Usman Chaudry
Founder of Lahore Education and Research Network, Founder of Women in Law Initiative Pakistan.
She is the Founder of Lahore Education And Research Network (LEARN) and Women in Law Initiative Pakistan. She is an Advocate Lahore High Court and has also served as founding Chairperson of the Gender Equality and Diversity Committee of the Lahore High Court Bar Association from 2018-20. She has considerable counseling and academic experience and has been teaching law since 2005.

Women in the legal profession have had a lot of wins in the past few years from workplace policies and leadership changes to greater representation in firms and at the bar. On this Women's Day LSL is conducting a seminar to celebrate the outstanding achievements of the women in legal fraternity.

Date: 8th March, 2021, Time: 11:00 am – 1:00 pm
Venue: Lahore School of Law Auditorium
+92 042-35841011-2 | www.LSLinternational | www.LSL.education

VOTE AND SUPPORT
Mehwish Muhib Kakakhel
LL.M (Cyber Crimes)
Advocate High Court

For the Seat of JOINT SECRETARY
In the upcoming Elections of:
Peshawar Bar Association 2021-22

18. Peshawar Bar Elections | 2021

KP Chapter Lead of our stand-alone initiative, Women in Law, **Advocate Mehwish Kakakhel** participated as a candidate in the Peshawar Bar Association Elections 2021 taking a step forward towards advancing representation of women in leadership positions.

19. Notification as Members of Statutory Special Committee under Anti-Rape Ordinance 2020 | 24 March 2021

Our founder **Nida Usman Chaudhary** and Women in Law KP Chapter Lead **Mehwish Muhib Kakakhel** were appointed as members of the Statutory Special Committee for the implementation of Anti-Rape Ordinance 2020 by the Ministry of Law and Justice. They are part of the 42-member committee responsible for providing guidelines and oversight for implementation of the law.

20. Speaking Engagement – WAF Webinar – SNC | 7 April 2021

Nida Usman Chaudhary was invited as a speaker to share her research, findings and reservations on the single national curriculum for a webinar arranged by Women's Action Forum.

21. Collaboration with Youth General Assembly for UNLEASH Hack 2021 - Pakistan | 15-22 May 2021

Three members of Women in Law Initiative, **Adv. Huma Jamil Babar**, **Barristers Mehrunissa Sajjad** and **Jugnoo Kazmi** represented the initiative as 'Judges' for Unleash Hack 2021 brought to Pakistan by Youth General Assembly. The hack encouraged teams of young students to work on actionable and scalable projects promoting SDGs. Our Founder **Nida Usman Chaudhary** also joined as one of the 'Experts' at the session.

22. Digital Internships | 2020-21

This year we offered virtual internship and work opportunities. The winter internship was awarded to **Adv. Muryam Rehman** who worked with us on '*increasing women's representation in law action*' under our collaboration with Federal Ministry of Law and Justice and Group Development Pakistan with support from Australian High Commission and the British High Commission.

The Summer internship was awarded to **Hania Zehra Shah** and **Rabia Noor**. Hania worked on research and compilation of different laws while Rabia researched on link between air pollution and climate change.

Other volunteers who worked with us throughout the year on the Ministry project were, **Sara Raza**, **Nehan Zehra** and **Maryam Noon**.

The Year Ahead | A Forecast

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

- a. Chapter Talks & Other Webinars
- b. Career Development Series
- c. Graduate to Associates Series
- d. Academic Development Series
- e. Policy Papers, Articles and Reform Proposals

Join Us

Opportunities will arise for the following from time to time:

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

Send CVs with Cover Letter to info@learnpak.com.pk

For details on postings please keep visiting our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/legaleducationandresearchnetwork.pk/?ref=bookmarks> or log on to our website www.learnpak.com.pk