

EXPERIENCE

Co-founder & CEO, Musawi, Pakistan

March 2018 - Present

Musawi is an independent organization that advances evidence-based legal and policy reforms. Comprising a team of lawyers and public policy specialists, Musawi's specializes in rule of law and human rights, with a focus on increasing access to justice for marginalized groups and legally empowering them. Musawi is a member of the Asia Alliance Against Torture, the Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network, Pakistan's National Alliance on Menstrual Hygiene Management and founding member of the Statelessness and Dignified Citizenship Coalition - Asia Pacific. Select project roles at Musawi stated below:

- **Team Lead, Protecting Women's Marriage Rights in Pakistan (December 2021 – August 2025) (ABA ROLI):** Responsible for oversight & technical support to all program activities and campaigns in Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) & Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT), in collaboration with local partners, to improve knowledge and awareness of nikkahnama clauses and women's marriage rights across the country, strengthen laws and practices for registration and enforcement of the nikkahnama and other marriage processes for religious minorities, and improve women's practical access to the law through quality legal advice and representation on marriage related issues.
- **Co-Principle Investigator, Gender Responsive & Trauma-Informed Policing in Punjab (May - August 2023) (USIP):** Provided technical support to program activities to improve the capacity of the Punjab Police to respond effectively to women, girls and transgender persons within the criminal justice system by integrating best practices on gender responsive and trauma-informed policing. Key activities included developing trauma-informed training materials, conducting trainings of Victim Support Officers (transgender persons) and female police officers and developing a victim vulnerability assessment framework in collaboration with the Punjab Police.
- **Co-Principle Investigator, Citizen Centric Governance in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (July 2021 - February 2023) (USIP):** Provided technical oversight to program activities and stakeholder coordination, along with Principle Investigator, to support building of a citizen-centric prosecution service in KP. Key activities included research to identify gaps in citizen-prosecution relationship and design and implementation of pilot citizen centric interventions in collaboration with the prosecution service.
- **Senior Researcher, Mapping of the Impact of COVID-19 on Stateless Communities in Pakistan (December 2021 - June 2022) (Institute of Statelessness and Inclusion):** Designed and conducted a research incorporating primary and secondary data collection and consolidated the findings in a first of its kind report documenting the specific impact of the pandemic on the stateless communities in Pakistan.

Member, Executive Committee, Asia Alliance Against Torture (A3T)

December 2019 – Present

Supporting development of regional activities of A3T - a regional network working to prevent and pursue accountability for torture and serious human rights violations in Asia - to increase solidarity for human rights stakeholders in the region and foster sharing of localized advocacy strategies, experiences and best practices. Presently leading the network's youth engagement initiative, The Asia Classroom, a free one-month human rights course for 16-25 year olds from across Asia.

Visiting Faculty, International College for Legal Studies, Lahore, Pakistan

June 2021 - Present

Teaching Jurisprudence and Legal Theory, a final year mandatory course under the University of London International LL.B. programme.

Asia Consultant, Open Society Justice Initiative, Lahore, Pakistan

May 2018 – December 2019

Developed a research report consolidating key cases on death in custody, enforced disappearances, arbitrary arrest and detention from 10 countries in the region to assess the impact of strategic litigation on accountability for torture in South, East and West Asia; presented findings in regional meetings and workshops for Open Society Justice Initiative's National Criminal Justice team focusing on global anti-torture initiatives.

Aryeh Neier Fellow (Policy Specialist), Open Society Justice Initiative, New York, USA

January 2017 –2018

Supported the National Criminal Justice Reform team through research, drafting of legal documents and representation at key regional and international events. Select activities: developed briefing papers on current state of torture in several countries in South and South East Asia; provided organizational support to strategic litigation for human rights workshops (Nepal 2017, Bali 2016); monitored implementation of Human Rights Committee torture cases in Central Asia through drafting follow up submissions to the UN Human Rights Committee; reviewed and compiled best practices on early-release programs and case-management systems for pre-trial detainees across jurisdictions; drafted a brief on independent oversight of prosecutorial role and best practices for selection and appointment of heads of prosecution services etc.

Aryeh Neier Fellow, Open Society Justice Initiative, Budapest, Hungary

January 2016 – 2017

Conducted legal research, drafted legal memos and legal documents in support of various projects of the National Security and Counter-terrorism team and represented them at regional and international meetings. Worked closely with advocacy and litigation teams to support implementation of select rendition cases at the European Court of Human Rights; researched countering violent extremism programs across regions, noting impact on vulnerable 'suspect' communities in respective jurisdictions, to support of OSJI's Report on UK government's 'Prevent' programme and monitored developments in Europe on the expansion of counter-terrorism legislation through criminal law – with a focus on France and EU directives on foreign fighters etc.

Consultant, GIZ, Lahore, Pakistan

December 2015

Developed and drafted two training modules for the Punjab Prosecution Service on prosecutorial decision-making in light of international and national best practices under a joint project titled Support for Capacity Development in the Criminal Investigation Services of Pakistan.

Human Rights Law Trainer, ABA ROLI, Pakistan

2012 – 2014

Administered and conducted trainings of lawyers, members of civil society organizations and a joint-training with prosecutors in Punjab on strategies for enforcement and incorporation of international human rights treaty obligations within the domestic legal framework, in particular UNCAT and ICCPR.

Legal Researcher, Coffey International Development, Islamabad & Peshawar, Pakistan

Sept 2013- March 2014

Under Project *Aitebaar: Peace Building Support to Post Crisis Needs Assessment* to promote awareness of legal rights for citizens of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, compiled a directory of all criminal laws applicable to KP, formulated legal awareness messages for citizens on fundamental rights, gender responsive-policing, functioning of the criminal justice system (prosecution service, community policing and prison services) for wider dissemination, and future trainings.

Consultant, GIZ, Lahore, Pakistan

November 2012 – April 2013

Devised and drafted a legal training module on *Termination of Prosecution: withdrawal powers of Prosecutors in Punjab* under the project: Support for Punjab Prosecution Service Project' (SPPS) to assist the training of Public Prosecutors in Punjab.

Visiting Faculty, University of London affiliate institute, Lahore, Pakistan

September 2010 – June 2014

Taught Criminal law to a class of 80 students and Jurisprudence and Legal Theory to 50 students as part of University of London International undergraduate LL.B. degree.

Advocate, Altaf and Altaf Advocates and Legal Consultants, Lahore, Pakistan.

August 2010 – 2014

Researched and drafted legal documents and appeared for submissions in Court pertaining to civil and criminal cases. Assisted in draft legislation on proposed National Commission on Child Rights and Pakistan's First State Report to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

EDUCATION

Masters of Law (LL.M.); Harvard Law School, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA

August 2014 – 2015

- Climenko Fellow, International Bar Association (IBA) researcher, recipient of Summer Academic Fellowship, author: '*Judicial Action in Weak Democracy: A case study of Pakistan*', Harvard University, LLM thesis, 2015

LL.M. 'Criminology and Criminal Justice', University of London International Programme, Lahore Pakistan

August 2011 – 2012

- 7 distinctions and 9 merits; recipient of Roll of Honor for Academic Excellence

LL.B. (Hons), University of London International Programme, Lahore Pakistan

August 2007 – 2010

- Awarded Merit Scholarship for Academic Excellence 2008-2009 & 2007-2008

PUBLICATIONS

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- Contributed: CFHR, Musawi & NCHR, *Diagnostic Study of Nikkahnamas in Punjab*, 2023
 - Edited: Musawi, Sindh Judicial Academy & ABA ROLI, *Bench Book on Muslim Family Laws for Judges in Pakistan*, 2023
 - Edited: Musawi & USIP, *Citizen Centric Prosecution in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa*, 2023
 - Contributed a chapter: Karen Barkey, Sudipta Kaviraj & Vatsal Naresh, *Negotiating Democracy and Religious Pluralism: India, Pakistan and Turkey, Chapter 11: Pakistan's Blasphemy Laws vs. Religious Freedom*, Oxford University Press, 2021
 - Co-authored: WaterAid, Pakistan, *Policy Gap Analysis on Menstrual Hygiene Management in Pakistan*, 2021
 - Co-authored: Musawi, *Bench Book on Serious Sexual Violence Cases in Pakistan*, 2021
 - Co-authored: United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), *Final Evaluation: Drivers of Change (Pakistan)*, 2020
 - Authored: WaterAid, Pakistan, *Briefing Paper: The Human Right to Water, Sanitation and Hygiene*, 2020
 - Co-authored: Musawi, *The Legislative Drafting Manual for Punjab: A Guide for Legislative Drafters and Parliamentarians*, 2019
 - Contributed: Open Society Justice Initiative, '*Strategic Litigation Toolkit: Drafting Complaints to the United Nations Human Rights Committee and Committee against Torture*', 2018
 - Authored: Center for Human Rights, *Accountability for Rape: A Case Study of Lodhran*, University College Lahore 2018 (supported by American Bar Association, Rule of Law Initiative)

Languages: English, Urdu, Hindi & Punjabi