



dastak

BEGINNING OF A COMMITMENT

“Justice begins with dignity and respect for dignity is the very basis of how you model your systems”

-Hina Jilani, Founder and Managing Trustee Dastak Charitable Trust

Dastak Charitable Trust was established in 1990 in response to the needs of women in distress and in absence of response services modeled on human rights principles. The Constitution of Pakistan that guarantees the fundamental rights to the security and dignity of person inspire the vision of Dastak.

Today Dastak operates as an access to justice center for women, girls and children facing violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms. Its mission is to make available adequate protection and support services to the survivors of violence in situations of crisis or those facing denial of fundamental rights to ensure their protection and rehabilitation. Dastak also undertakes programs to improve mechanisms and practices for the prevention of and response to women and child rights violations at the national, provincial and community levels. Dastak governed by a dynamic and experienced board and supported by a dedicated team executing its programs.

The overriding concern of the organization is that protection should be provided in a manner that recognizes and respects the individual's right to **LIBERTY** and **HUMAN DIGNITY**.

“All citizens are equal before and are entitled to equal protection of law. There shall be no discrimination on the basis of sex alone. Nothing in this Article shall prevent the State from making any special provision for the protection of women and children”
Constitution of Pakistan, Article 25

“The dignity of man and, subject to the law, the privacy of home shall be inviolable”.
Constitution of Pakistan, Article 14

“No person shall be deprived of life or liberty save in accordance with law”
Constitution of Pakistan, Article 9

WHAT DO WE DO?

FREE LEGAL AID

Dastak provides free legal aid and related interventions for relief and protection for women, girls and children suffering from violation of their fundamental rights focusing on both family laws and criminal justice (sexual crimes, juvenile justice, harassment etc.). The objective is to give appropriate legal counseling and assistance, as well as to facilitate access to forums of redress in order to assert their legal rights.

SHELTER HOME: FREE TEMPORARY BOARD AND LODGING FOR WOMEN AND GIRL SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE

Dastak provides shelter to women, girls and accompanying children in situations of crisis. The fundamental nature of the home and its basic objective is to serve as an immediate safe haven and temporary residence for women in difficult circumstances.

+ EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMS

Dastak conducts different programs for the social and economic empowerment of the shelter residents and periodically also offers these programs at government shelters. The objective is to enhance the capacity of the residents to exercise their fundamental rights as well as to gain economic independence and personal autonomy. Dastak also offers the same programs at government shelters from time to time.

+ PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH

Women, girls and children staying at Dastak's shelter home are provided free psychological counseling and basic health care services for their recover and overall physical and mental wellbeing.

CHILD RIGHTS UNIT

To give centralized focus to child rights, Dastak has established a Child Rights Unit that works on the promotion and protection of the rights of children under especially difficult circumstances and to bring visibility to the risks and vulnerabilities they suffer. Its main thematic areas for advocacy are juvenile justice, children's right to participation, protection from abuse and exploitation and alternative care for children without family support.

NETWORKING, ADVOCACY AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Dastak strongly believes in the human rights approach to service delivery and collective action and response. To this end, it regularly conducts training programs, mutual learning workshops and seminars for government and non-government practitioners to build knowledge and cooperation. Such programs are also critical to create public support for state action and social initiatives for protection and promotion of women and children's rights.

The organization subscribes to the critically important objective of institutionalizing human rights based approach among State and non-state actors and to put in place a comprehensive protection system for women and children at national and sub-national levels.

EXPERIENCE SHARING: INTERNSHIPS AND EXPOSURE VISITS

Dastak provides access to its resources, knowledge and experiences to academics, students, journalists and other NGOs for learning and research.

The long term goal of Dastak is the creation of gender and child responsive support systems - political, judicial, societal and economic - as well as progressive attitudinal change at family and community levels. It aims to give women and children confidence in the legitimacy of their rights as well as in the efforts to attain those rights.

HOW CAN YOU REACH US?



General Inquiries: 00 92 42 33294-0314-33, 00 92 333 409696
Crisis Helpline: 00 92 333 40000 (Operational Monday-Friday from 9 am to 5 pm)



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